RESTOREID

D6.2 KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PLATFORM (KEP)

Joint deliverable with ZOE

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Project no.	101134969
Project acronym:	RESTOREID
Project title:	Restoring Ecosystems to Stop the Threat of Re - Emerging Infectious Disease
Call:	HORIZON-CL6-2023-BIODIV-01
Start date of project:	01.01.2024
Duration:	48 months
Report title:	D6.2 Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP) - Joint deliverable with ZOE
Due date of deliverable:	30.06.2025
Date of delivery:	24.06.2025
Lead Partners:	EUROPA MEDIA
Dissemination level:	Public
Website:	https://restoreid.eu/

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Document History			
Version	Date	Note	Revised by
01	12.06.2025	First Draft	UANTW and UBANGOR
02	18.06.2025	Final draft	ZOE and WP leaders
03	24.06.2025	Approved final version	

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2. Executive Summary

RESTOREID was funded under the HORIZON-CL6-2023-BIODIV-01-17 Horizon Europe call. The topic stated that: "*In collaboration among the projects to be funded, create a **knowledge platform** for a) sharing information on relevant research activities and results concerning the prevention of zoonotic disease emergence in relation to biodiversity; and b) reinforcing the communication and coordination between academics, innovators, end-users, researchers, public health and environmental authorities and citizens in order to create the strong system needed for the prevention of the emergence of zoonotic diseases. This platform should be a joint deliverable between the projects to be funded and will be expected to coordinate the research activities which aim to understand and mitigate the risks of zoonotic disease emergence in relation to the degradation of ecosystems with its associated biodiversity loss, allowing closure of current gaps and break down of existing silos. Proposals should dedicate appropriate resources to develop this joint deliverable in cooperation with the other project/s funded under this topic*."

RESTOREID's response to this requirement was that in collaboration with its the sister project funded under the same call, the project will ensure synergy with relevant activities carried out under other initiatives in Horizon Europe and create a knowledge platform (KEP), a web repository of restoration resources and tools, information source for research in prevention of zoonotic disease emergence in relation to biodiversity as well as a virtual and physical liaison structure among the various stakeholders, academics, innovators, end-users, researchers, public health and environmental authorities and citizens.

The two projects funded under the call, RESTOREID and ZOE agreed on the task distribution. RESTOREID will develop a survey and organise a consultation process to make sure the KEP will be fulfilling the needs of the key stakeholders and will provide complementary functionalities to other existing platforms. ZOE will design and establish the platform website, which will open to an interactive map locating the case study regions and partner institutions of RESTOREID as well as other projects addressing research questions at the biodiversity-health nexus. ZOE will set up the KEP space on Open Science Framework (OSF) which will host modules towards data sharing, will share and disseminate the final results of both ZOE and RESTOREID using open science approaches, host sub-projects for collaboration between different projects and/or stakeholders, offer private spaces for discussions.

The **aim of this deliverable** is to describe the Knowledge Exchange Platform (KEP), or Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN) that aims to a) *share information on relevant research activities and results concerning the prevention of zoonotic disease emergence in relation to biodiversity* b) *reinforce the communication and coordination to create the strong system needed for the prevention of the emergence of zoonotic diseases.*

3. RESTOREID Knowledge Exchange task

The HORIZON-CL6-2023-BIODIV-01-17 Horizon Europe call required to create a knowledge platform, but the first task was to identify what other initiatives, platforms and networks are working on similar activities.

RESTOREID as well as ZOE (https://www.zoe-project.eu/) identified and engaged with relevant European and international agencies and initiatives working in the field of restoration and zoonotic diseases. The work package leader, Europa Media ensured all partners involvement into the stakeholder engagement activities.

The Needs assessment task (T6.1) aimed at having a full understanding on the needs of all stakeholders in terms of scope, functions, content and maintenance of the KEP.

In Task 6.2 the KEP Consultation RESTOREID aimed at engaging with all key actors (EC, IPBES,BISE, JRC, EC KCB, etc.) to make decisions, discuss options for the KEP (scope, functions, implementation and maintenance).

A consultation report has been developed to summarise the findings and conclusions. (See Annex 1). RESTOREID under Task 6.3 – the development of the KEN decided on the following steps:

- RESTOREID will focus on the nexus of restoration and the risk of emerging zoonotic diseases when developing and sharing data on Open Science Framework and the ZOE Integrative Knowledge Platform.
- RESTOREID will provide support for BioAgora in establishing the Restoration and Health Knowledge Exchange Network.
- RESTOREID will support all stakeholders in raising awareness on existing initiatives by developing a sub-page on https://restoreid.eu/ listing, summarizing the existing initiatives with a search and filtering function.

4. OSF – Open Science Framework

RESTOREID has a public project account on OSF, hosted on the server based in Frankfurt. OSF gives a project space with a hierarchical file structure and version control. RESTOREID OSF account is used OSF to share files and data publicly and to keep data space with only those that should have access.

The following deliverables have been uploaded so far to the OSF account:

- D7.2 Data Management Plan
- D4.1 Study protocol, collection tool
- D1.1 Literature review

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- D2.1 Acoustic sampling protocol
- D2.2 Fly sampling protocol
- D1.4 Game testing

The following useful information will be made available for other researchers on the public OSF account:

A filled template that was designed to standardize the collection of site-level metadata for the WP2 component of the RESTOREID project, focusing on biodiversity assessment. It includes separate sheets for habitats and records detailed information on:

· **Country, location**, and **site type**

· **Habitat classification** and **disturbance level**

· **Survey date** (planned or completed)

· **Transect and plot descriptions**

· **Structural characteristics** of vegetation

· **Authors and contributors**

Additionally, the template includes fields documenting:

· Whether **eDNA sampling** and/or **animal trapping** was conducted

· **Details of the trapping protocol** (e.g., type, effort, duration)

· **Types of samples collected** (e.g., feces, tissue, swabs)

This structure ensures consistency in field data collection across sites and countries, enabling reliable integration and comparison of ecological and molecular data.

4.1. Adams Atlas

To address the evidence gaps revealed by the literature review, and enhance usability, the review is complemented by a *living evidence atlas*, an interactive, online platform that enables ongoing updates and visual exploration of findings. The atlas collates all the studies used in the review, and has the capacity to have additional studies uploaded. The data is visually represented as a map, with a range of filters to allow users to easily identify studies of interest. By doing this, the atlas supports interdisciplinary decision-making and helps identify priority areas for future research aligned with One Health and restoration policy goals. Link: https://adamjohnfell.shinyapps.io/restoreid_evidence_atlas/

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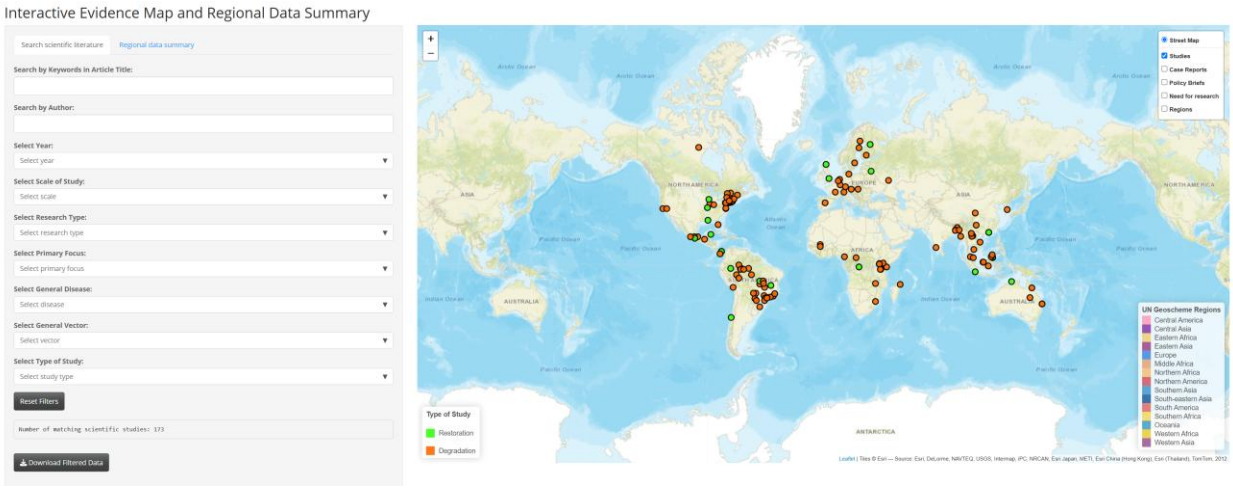

5. BioAgora KEN

BioAgora "uses ongoing **processes of Science-Policy Interfaces as knowledge exchange networks** to address the most urgent needs identified for the Science Service for Biodiversity. The knowledge exchange networks are directly related to the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

The knowledge exchange networks will showcase real-life actions and processes, and will demonstrate different processes already in place in various biodiversity management and governance contexts. They will range from marine bio-economy to forestry, from aquaculture to pollination and from mountain tourism to urban green infrastructure. The networks will show how governance can enhance science-based transformative change and will support implementing, monitoring, reporting and reviewing the EU's biodiversity strategy."[1]

5.1. Further surveys

ALTERNET and BioAgora is planning to organise additional discussions and questionnaires that will further specify the scope and topics of the Restoration and Health KEN.

RESTOREID is in contact with ALTERNET and ZOE to support the KEN development.

[1] https://bioagora.eu/knowledge-exchange-networks

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6. RESTOREID Subpage: Restoration-Health Nexus Initiatives

The RESTOREID Restoration-Health Nexus subpage was developed to address a growing need identified through the KEP survey and consultation process: the need **to better collect, organise, and share knowledge** on the interlinkages between ecosystem restoration, biodiversity, and public health, particularly in relation to zoonotic disease emergence.

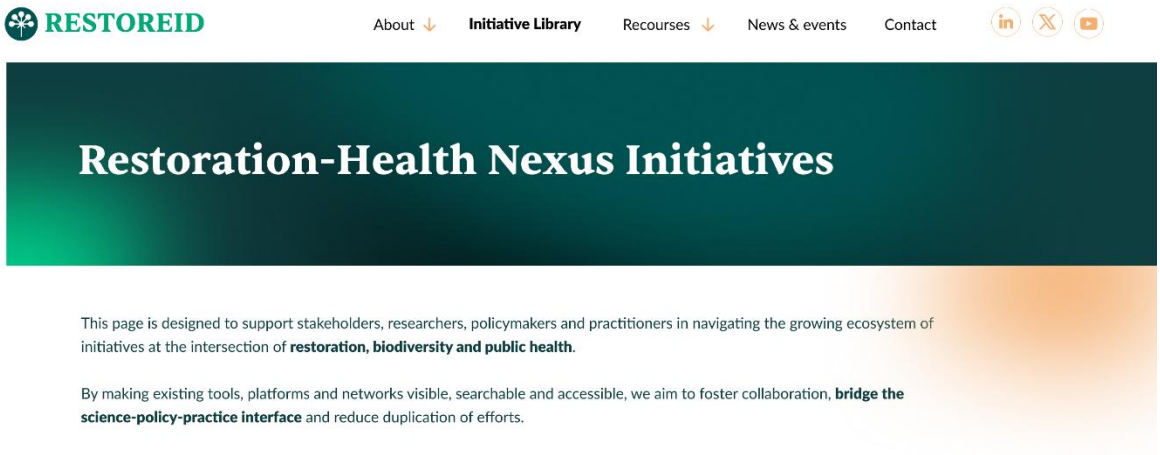
This subpage on https://restoreid.eu/ will act as a **curated digital hub** to help stakeholders, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners navigate the expanding ecosystem of related initiatives. Its core objective is to **reduce fragmentation, foster interdisciplinary collaboration, and bridge the science-policy-practice interface** by making existing tools, platforms, and networks both visible and accessible.

The subpage is organised to guide users from conceptual understanding to direct interaction with RESTOREID's and partners' resources. The layout is designed with **accessibility, interactivity, and integration** in mind.

The subpage is structured as follows:

1. Hero Section

The page opens with a strong introductory message that clearly states the purpose of the subpage: supporting stakeholders in navigating initiatives that connect restoration, biodiversity, and public health. It frames the subpage as a facilitation tool for collaboration, visibility, and resource accessibility.



2. Explore the Initiatives

This core section is subdivided into four parts, each focusing on a unique RESTOREID or partner contribution:

2.1 BioAgora's Knowledge Exchange Networks (KENs)

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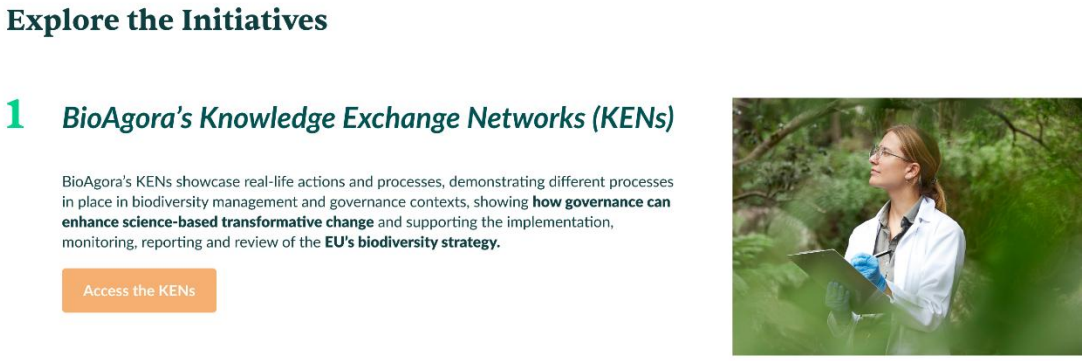
This section introduces KENs as **real-life showcases of biodiversity governance and transformatio**n. Users are directed to explore how governance can enhance science-based decision-making and policy implementation.



2.2 ZOE's Webmap

This subsection highlights ZOE's highly **visual, interactive map of global projects** addressing the biodiversity-health interface, including RESTOREID. It encourages exploration through filters (region, topic, metrics).

2.3 RESTOREID's Open Science Framework (OSF) Repository

Here, visitors can access RESTOREID's OSF repository, which houses data, findings and methodologies in alignment with open science principles. This ensures **transparency** and supports **collaborative research.**

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2.4 Initiative Library

A **searchable and filterable database of projects, tools, and networks**. Users can filter by topic, geography, stakeholder type, and initiative type to discover relevant efforts. This section represents a long-term knowledge exchange asset.

Initiative Library

Browse a database of initiatives advancing **knowledge and action at the biodiversity-health-restoration nexus**. Search or filter by topic, region, stakeholder group or type of initiative to find tools, platforms and networks aligned with your interests.

Initiative | Gap / Topic Addressed by the Initiative ↓ | Type of Initiative ↓ | Geographical Scope ↓ | Stakeholder Relevance ↓ | Keywords ↓

Initiative	Gap / Topic Addressed by the Initiative	Type of Initiative	Geographical Scope	Stakeholder Relevance	Keywords
BioAgora Knowledge Exchange Networks	Knowledge Sharing, Policy Integration	Platform or Tool, Policy & Support Mechanism	EU-wide	Policymakers & Public Sector, Researchers & Academia	Biodiversity & Restoration, Policy & Governance
Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBD)	Knowledge Sharing, Policy Integration	Platform or Tool	EU-wide	Policymakers & Public Sector, Researchers & Academia	Biodiversity & Restoration, Policy & Governance
Panorama – Solutions for a Healthy Planet	Knowledge Sharing, Capacity Building	Platform or Tool	Global	Practitioners, NGOs & Civil Society	Biodiversity & Restoration, Capacity & Skills
Biodiversa+	Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Policy Integration, Capacity Building	Network / Collaboration, Funding & Financial Mechanism	EU-wide	Researchers & Academia, Policymakers & Public Sector	Policy & Governance, Ecosystem Services
Oppla	Knowledge Sharing, Data & Monitoring	Platform or Tool	EU-wide	Practitioners, Researchers & Academia	Data & Evidence, Biodiversity & Restoration
EU CAP Network	Knowledge Sharing, Best Practices, Policy Integration	Network / Collaboration	EU-wide	Policymakers & Public Sector, Practitioners	Policy & Governance, Biodiversity & Restoration
BioFin	Finance & Resources	Funding & Financial Mechanism	Global	Governments, Businesses & Finance	Finance & Funding, Policy & Governance
BIOCAPITAL	Finance & Resources	Project	EU-wide	Researchers & Academia, Policymakers & Public Sector, Businesses & Finance	Finance & Funding, Biodiversity & Restoration
Finance for Biodiversity Foundation	Finance & Resources, Policy Integration	Network / Collaboration	Global	Financial institutions, Businesses & Finance, Policymakers & Public Sector	Finance & Funding, Policy & Governance
European Business & Biodiversity Platform	Finance & Resources, Policy Integration	Platform or Tool	EU-wide	Businesses & Finance, Policymakers & Public Sector	Finance & Funding, Policy & Governance
BioAgora Science Service for Biodiversity	Policy Integration, Knowledge Sharing	Policy & Support Mechanism	EU-wide	Scientists, Policymakers & Public Sector	Policy & Governance, Biodiversity & Restoration
Science for Environment Policy (SfEP)	Policy Integration	Policy & Support Mechanism	EU-wide	Policymakers & Public Sector, Researchers & Academia	Policy & Governance, Data & Evidence
Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM)	Policy Integration	Policy & Support Mechanism	EU-wide	Policymakers & Public Sector, Researchers & Academia	Policy & Governance, Data & Evidence
BiodivRestore Knowledge Hub	Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Knowledge Sharing	Network / Collaboration	EU-wide	Researchers & Academia, Policymakers & Public Sector	Biodiversity & Restoration, Knowledge Systems
Alternet	Interdisciplinary Collaboration, Knowledge Sharing	Network / Collaboration	EU-wide	Researchers & Academia, Policymakers & Public Sector	Ecosystem Services, Policy & Governance

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To fulfil the subpage's function as a navigational and knowledge-sharing hub, the following design and IT components are essential:

- **Search and Filter Functions (Initiative Library)**:
    - Filters include: Topic, Region, Stakeholder Group, Type of Initiative.
    - Results are dynamically updated based on filter selection.
    - A search bar allows for free-text search across initiative titles.
- **Differentiated Sections and CTA Buttons**:
    - Each of the main resources (KENs, Webmap, OSF) has a clearly differentiated section.
    - Accompanying CTA buttons should be clearly labelled and linked externally to respective platforms.
- **Mobile-Responsive and Accessible Design**:
    - The interface will be optimised for desktop and mobile devices.
    - Navigation will remain intuitive, and content accessible via screen readers.
- **Contact Integration**:
    - The "Help Us Grow the Library" section links to the main RESTOREID contact page, allowing users to suggest new initiatives.

The subpage translates conclusions from the consultation process into action, addressing three gaps identified during discussions with BioDivRestore Hub experts:

1. Sharing More Data and Evidence on Restoration and Disease Risk

- The OSF repository and ZOE Webmap act as centralised access points for datasets, research findings, and site-specific information.

2. Supporting the Restoration and Health KEN

- This subpage offers a stable and visible anchor for the KEN, hosting links, reference tools, and a space for outreach and stakeholder onboarding.

3. Raising Awareness of Existing Initiatives

- The Initiative Library fulfils this function by organising and showcasing a broad range of global efforts that are thematically aligned, helping to build a coherent narrative and network across sectors.

Together, these features strengthen RESTOREID's role as a facilitator of global knowledge exchange and empower stakeholders to learn from, build on, and contribute to existing work.

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7. ZOE

"ZOE Knowledge Exchange Platform is an online resource to link stakeholders interested and/or involved in research activities aiming at understanding and mitigating the risks of zoonotic and vector-borne disease emergence in relation to ecosystem degradation and associated biodiversity loss. This map shows projects funded by the European Commission and other funding agencies that address research questions at the Biodiversity-Health Nexus."[2] See more details in ZOE Knowledge Exchange Platform deliverable.

https://www.biodiv-health-kep.com/

8. Attachments

Attachment 1: KEP Consultation report

Attachment 2: ZOE KEP Deliverable

[2] https://www.biodiv-health-kep.com/

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KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PLATFORM

Consultation Report (Summary on Tasks 6.1 and 6.2)

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Start date of project:	01.01.2024
Duration:	48 months
Report title:	KEP Consultation
Date of delivery:	07.05.2025
Lead Partners:	EUROPA MEDIA and ALTERNET and UANTWERP
Dissemination level:	Public
Website:	https://restoreid.eu/

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RESTOREID's response to this requirement was that in collaboration with its the sister project funded under the same call, the project will ensure synergy with relevant activities carried out under other initiatives in Horizon Europe and create a knowledge platform (KEP), a web repository of restoration resources and tools, information source for research in prevention of zoonotic disease emergence in relation to biodiversity as well as a virtual and physical liaison structure among the various stakeholders, academics, innovators, end-users, researchers, public health and environmental authorities and citizens.

The two projects funded under the call, RESTOREID and ZOE agreed on the task distribution. RESTOREID will develop a survey and organise a consultation process to make sure the KEP will be fulfilling the needs of the key stakeholders and will provide complementary functionalities to other existing platforms. ZOE will design and establish the platform website, which will open to an interactive map locating the case study regions and partner institutions of RESTOREID as well as other projects addressing research questions at the biodiversity-health nexus. ZOE will set up the KEP space on Open Science Framework (OSF) which will host modules towards data sharing, will share and disseminate the final results of both ZOE and RESTOREID using open science approaches, host sub-projects for collaboration between different projects and/or stakeholders, offer private spaces for discussions.

The aim of this report is to summarise the findings of Tasks 6.1 and 6.2 in the RESTOREID project. These tasks were aiming at creating the survey for experts and stakeholders and analyse the results of the survey (Task 6.1 KEP Needs assessment) and to introduce these results to key stakeholders in the field of knowledge exchange for restoration related research and policy impact (Task 6.2 KEP consultation). The conclusions will introduce what RESTOREID will implement to a) *share information on relevant research activities and results concerning the prevention of zoonotic disease emergence in relation to biodiversity* b) *reinforce the communication and coordination to create the strong system needed for the prevention of the emergence of zoonotic diseases.*

3. RESTOREID Knowledge Exchange task

The HORIZON-CL6-2023-BIODIV-01-17 Horizon Europe call required to create a knowledge platform, but the first task was to identify what other initiatives, platforms and networks are working on similar activities.

RESTOREID as well as ZOE (https://www.zoe-project.eu/) identified and engaged with relevant European and international agencies and initiatives working in the field of restoration and zoonotic diseases. The work package leader Europa Media ensured all partners involvement into the stakeholder engagement activities.

The Needs assessment task (T6.1) aimed at having a full understanding on the needs of all stakeholders in terms of scope, functions, content and maintenance of the KEP.

In Task 6.2 the KEP Consultation RESTOREID aimed at engaging with all key actors (EC, IPBES,BISE, JRC, EC KCB, etc.) to make decisions, discuss options for the KEP (scope, functions, implementation and maintenance).

The scope and functions of a knowledge exchange platform or network were also discussed. The RESTOREID grant agreement included the following basic assumptions:

- KEP Scope: Establish an online and offline collaboration tool and knowledge and information exchange facilitator for the various stakeholders in the field of the prevention of zoonotic disease emergence in relation to biodiversity, ecosystem services and restoration.
- KEP functionalities: knowledge repository (data, protocols, reports, etc.), calls for interest, news and events, community cases and studies, structured evidence for policy support; toolkits available - e.g. through connection to PANORAMA; innovations of interest – e.g. through connection with Innovation Radar; access to expert support; digital space for networking and discussions through e.g. thematic expert groups with wiki joint working space on OSF and archive space; access to risk assessment layers and decision-support tool for specific stakeholders;

4. KEP Needs assessment

RESTOREID was launched in January 2024 and at the kick-off meeting already started to discuss the Needa assessment task. The Task leader is ALTERNET, represented by Marie Vandewalle. She is associated with EKLIPSE and is also an advisory board member is ZOE, but more importantly Marie Vandewalle is the scientific co-coordinator of BioAgora (setting the future EU Science Service for Biodiversity). The scope of the needs assessment survey thus was quickly formulated in the following weeks.

RESTOREID initiated a discussion and collaboration with ZOE after the kick-off of ZOE in 2024. The questions and the fist draft of the survey was available in May 2024.

The distribution of the survey got delayed because of several reasons. In 2024 the BioDivRestore Hub was set up by Biodiversa+ - an expert working group based on all aspects of restoration. BioDivRestore Hub

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invited also Lucinda Kirkpatrick, the lead researcher of RESTOREID into their research sub-group. There was a lot of parallel thinking between what was being suggested as part of that hub and what BioAgora, ZOE and RESTOREID would be doing as part of the KEP (although of course RESTOREID's focus is on pathogen spillover and restoration, whereas the BioDivRestore hub is much broader). Also in 2024 a new expert group of DG ENV responsible of the implementation of the recently adopted Nature Restoration Law was formulated, Marie Vandewalle being one of the members of this group.

The extensive contact network through that hub and expert group presented an excellent opportunity to widen the scope of the survey. Another reason for the delay in task implementation was a small technical difficulty with the survey platform. The survey was then re-worked and extended by Soushieta Jagadesh from ALTERNET with questions to support the BioAgora knowledge exchange initiatives. Survey Monkey was used a platform.

As BioAgora started to develop several knowledge exchange networks, it seemed appropriate not to duplicate any initiative, but support BioAgora in extending the knowledge exchange networks with one more on Restoration and Health.

From BioAgora website: *The knowledge exchange networks will showcase real-life actions and processes, and will demonstrate different processes already in place in various biodiversity management and governance contexts. They will range from marine bio-economy to forestry, from aquaculture to pollination and from mountain tourism to urban green infrastructure. The networks will show how governance can enhance science-based transformative change and will support implementing, monitoring, reporting and reviewing the EU's biodiversity strategy*. https://bioagora.eu/knowledge-exchange-networks

Thus RESTOREID exchanged the naming of KEP – Knowledge Exchange Platform with KEN - Knowledge Exchange Network. The final survey has focused on KEN needs assessment.

RESTOREID asked and received an extension request on Task 6.1 and the survey was launched and distributed in November 2024 – March 2025. The survey was closed in April 2025.

The survey has been promoted by all partners, a campaign was helping from ALTERNET and EKLIPSE. The most successful European outreach effort was direct emailing by Marie Vandewalle using the network contacts of BioAgora. The international outreach was supported by the restor.eco platform. Also trough direct emails a great interest was generated not only in the scientific, but also the civil community.

LinkedIn post example:

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RESTOREID
465 followers
4mo •

Help Shape the Future of Knowledge Exchange!

RESTOREID, in collaboration with ZOE and BioAgora Project, is launching a Knowledge Exchange Needs Survey to develop a dynamic Knowledge Exchange Network for restoration and zoonotic disease management.

Your insights will help us:
- Build an inclusive, policy-driven community
- Support evidence-based decision-making
- Ensure long-term sustainability and collaboration

Stakeholders in biodiversity, restoration, and zoonotic diseases—your voice matters!

Take the survey now and be part of the change: https://lnkd.in/d6_bDfBG

#RESTOREID #KnowledgeExchange #Biodiversity #ZoonoticDiseases #Restoration #Collaboration

4.1. KEN Survey

The survey had three sections.

Section1: General Information and demographic breakdown

Section 2: Questions related to knowledge exchange

Section 3:Questions related to EU Biodiversity knowledge governance

In total we received around 360 responses. Many responses came from outside Europe; from Africa, Asia, South-America, Oceania and North-America as well. Europe was represented by several countries, such as: United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Malta, Netherlands, Switzerland, Slovakia.

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The following EU projects were filling in the survey:

RESTOREID, ID-Alert, WaterLANDS, BCOMING (endorsed also by PREZODE), BEPREP, BIONEXT, CLIMOS, NESTLER, REST-COAST, MERLIN, FOSTA-Health, SUPERB, URBANE, CATALYSE, ZOE.

ALTERNET analysed the results of the survey. Some of the findings are included below, but the full presentation of the results as well as a focused analysis from the EU projects is attached to this report.

Key questions included:

Section 2: **Responses on KEN Development Section**

- Q11: Are there any key actors or stakeholders with whom you would like to develop a stronger collaboration? Please specify.
- Q12: What types of activities should be included in the KEN? (Select all that apply and provide details if necessary)
- Q13: How frequently should these activities be planned? (Choose one)
- Q14: What are the most pressing challenges your project is currently facing?
- Q15: Can the KEN help address these challenges? If so, how?
- Q16: Would you be interested in taking some responsibility in the management of one of the proposed activities on behalf of the KEN? If yes, please specify which one(s)
- Q17: Do you have resources available to contribute to the development of KEN activities? Please describe.
- Q18? Do you see value in continuing the KEN initiative beyond the duration of the current projects? Please describe.
- Q21: What obstacles do you foresee in the development of the KEN?
- Q22: How can these obstacles be overcome?
- Q23: How do you envision the KEN initiative helping you achieve your project's mission? (Please elaborate)

Section 3: **Contributions to EU Biodiversity Knowledge Governance**

- Q24: How would you describe your project's role in relation to the EU Biodiversity Strategy?
- Q25: How would you describe your project's role in relation to the development and implementation of the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR), which was adopted in June 2024?
- Q26: Are you collaborating with any of the following entities? (List)
- Q27: Are you aware of the BioAgora project and its mission to establish the future Science Service for Biodiversity as the scientific pillar of the EC-Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBD)?
- Q28: Would you be interested in receiving BioAgora Newsletter, which is typically sent out four times a year?
- Q29: In your opinion, what are the key gaps in the current science-policy landscape, and how can the EU-funded research community be better connected with EU policymaking to enhance the implementation of biodiversity commitments (e.g., BDS2030, NRR, etc.)?

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4.2. Key takeaways from the survey responses

1. Strong Interest in Policy Advocacy & Knowledge Sharing

- Many respondents emphasized international policy advocacy (e.g., OHHLEP, Nature4Health, IUCN) and the importance of knowledge sharing on best practices for restoration and conservation.

2. Capacity Building & Community Engagement as Priorities

- Training workshops, public engagement initiatives, and community-led programs (e.g., afforestation, climate adaptation, gender empowerment) were frequently mentioned as key areas for involvement.

3. Technological and Financial Support Needed

- Interest in applying AI/ML for restoration, efficient biodiversity monitoring, and securing funding opportunities to support conservation and restoration initiatives was highlighted.

4. Monitoring & Evaluation for Effective Impact Assessment

- Participants stressed the importance of developing metrics to assess ecological and socio-economic outcomes of restoration efforts, linking research with on-the-ground action.

5. Regional Leadership & Collaborative Approaches

- Several respondents expressed willingness to take leadership roles in specific regions (e.g., Bangladesh, Colombia) and emphasized multi-stakeholder collaboration to enhance impact.

The survey results suggest a broad interest in strengthening collaborations across different stakeholder groups, with a focus on:

1. **Local Governments** (12.90%)

Strong demand for deeper engagement with municipal and regional authorities to enhance project implementation and policy integration.

2. **Funding Bodies** (11.29%)

A clear need for greater financial support and sustainable funding mechanisms for restoration and conservation initiatives.

3. **Local Communities** (10.75%)

Highlighting the importance of grassroots engagement and community-driven projects for long-term impact.

4. **Research Institutions & Academics** (9.68%)

Indicates the need for scientific collaboration and knowledge exchange to support evidence-based decision-making.

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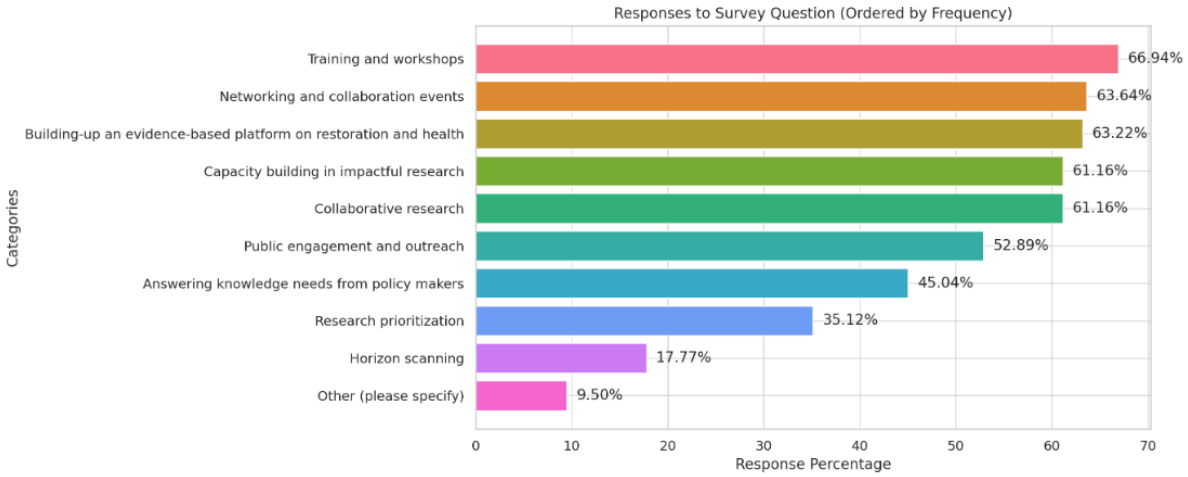
5. **International Organizations** (8.06%)

Emphasis on global partnerships, aligning with EU projects and international conservation efforts.

6. **Restoration & Conservation Organizations** (8.06%)

Collaboration with environmental NGOs and restoration experts to maximize project impact.

Q: What should the KEP/KEN initiative do to help the stakeholders:



Extract from answers:

- Providing **knowledge exchange opportunities, funding and collaboration**
- Providing access to a **network of resources, expertise, and funding opportunities**
- Collaborative and useful feedback on **best practices**
- Teamwork and co-creation of projects through collaborating funding
- **Training and Financial and Technical support**
- Facilitates collaborative research
- Supports **data sharing** among researchers, policymakers, and institutions
- Helps establish standardized surveillance protocols
- Engages with government agencies and international organizations (FAO, WHO) to **influence policy.**
- Develops **training programs** for veterinarians, farmers, and food safety officers
- Provides a platform for mentorship between senior researchers and emerging professionals
- Encourages **cross-sector collaboration** in capacity building

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- Enhances credibility for joint funding applications through a strong institutional network
- Uses mass media (radio, TV, social media) to **disseminate research findings** in accessible formats
- Creates a **feedback loop between scientific research and real-world application**
- The KEN initiative serves as a bridge between research, policy, and practice
- Fosters knowledge exchange, collaboration, and resource mobilization among key stakeholders
- Fosters an inclusive network of experts and stakeholders
- Collaborative Problem-Solving & Technical Assistance – Engaging in peer-to-peer learning with other organizations facing similar challenges, particularly in sustainable farming, regenerative agriculture, and food security

The survey results suggest that the stakeholders would be very much interested in developing a collaboration and would be happy to contribute to the development and maintenance of the KEN.

The following contributions were specifically mentioned:

- International policy advocacy (OHHLEP, Nature4Health, IUCN, ...)
- Collaborative research.
- Collaboration networks
- Training and Capacity Building
- Funding and funding opportunities,
- Application of Artificial Learning and Machine Learning on restoration and conservation work, Data gathering and management
- Dissemination
- Data and knowledge sharing
- Community Engagement Programs
- Sustainability knowledge sharing and exchange among projects and relevant stakeholders
- Project monitoring and evaluation and environmental and social safeguards
- Providing Technical Support and Innovation
- Developing suitable models for restoration
- Enhance science-policy interactions by including artistic research methods
- Monitoring of the implementation/tracking of indicators or progress of project implementation;
- Technology Development
- Efficient biodiversity monitoring and socioeconomic drivers of restoration

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While several key gaps have been identified by the respondents of the survey regarding the current science-policy landscape, it also turned out that many of the existing initiatives, platforms, networks and their scopes, services were not known by the respondents.

When listing the identified needs, we could match several projects, networks and initiatives that already exist and work on fulfilling that gap.

Gaps	Existing initiatives
Lack of knowledge sharing Access to best practices	Bioagora Knowledge Exchange Networks Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBD) Panorama Biodiversa+ Oppla EU CAP NETWORK
Linking with finance policy and actors	BioFin BIOCAPITAL Finance for Biodiversity Foundation European Business & Biodiversity Platform
It is essential to better integrate the scientific community into policy-making processes, create continuous feedback mechanisms and ensure that policies are based on up-to-date data and evidence.	BioAgora Science Service for Biodiversity Science for Environment Policy (SfEP) Scientific Advice Mechanism
Lack of Interdisciplinary Collaboration	BiodivRestore Knowledge Hub (52 experts) Alternet / EKLIPSE / BiodivERsA
Insufficient Data Integration and Accessibility	ZOE BISE
Limited data interoperability and lack of effective platforms for real-time sharing of relevant findings between researchers and policymakers.	EU Biodiversity Platform (EUBP) European Biodiversity Observatory Network (EuropaBON) Global Biodiversity Information Facility
Insufficient long-term data on the effectiveness of biodiversity restoration efforts and lack of mechanisms to track outcomes from EU policies.	Integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem Research (eLTER Copernicus Programme
Lack of knowledge exchange and networking between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to ensure restoration efforts align with public health priorities	BioAgora, EKLIPSE, RESTOREID, ZOE

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SUMMARY – what the stakeholders want

- The KEN initiative should serve as a bridge between research, policy, and practice.
- There is a need for capacity-building services and opportunities for regular interactions – workshops/discussions/networking.
- A pressing challenge stays the funding and financial resources.
- There is a need for strengthening the science-policy interface but also translating scientific results and data for policymaking.
- Besides the science-policy interface – stakeholders highlight the involvement of the civil sector into the discussions - engage with local communities and get their feedback through grass root organisations, NGOs.

5. KEP Consultation

5.1. Meetings

After ALTERNET analysed the survey results RESTOREID organised two consultation meetings. The first meeting took place on 31st March 2025.

Attendees:

- Gabriella Lovasz, Europa Media Norge AS
- Diego Rodriguez and Jelena Kajganovic, Europa Media Nonprofit Ltd.
- Lucinda Kirkpatrick, University of Bangor – lead researcher in RESTOREID
- Soushieta Jagadesh, ALTERNET
- Marie Vandewalle, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, ALTERNET
- Wendy K. Jo, Charité Medical University of Berlin, ZOE
- Lucie Vidonne, European Commission, DG RTD
- Paris Vasilakopoulos, European Commission, JRC, ECKB
- Ute Jacob, Helmholtz Institute for Functional Marine Biodiversity at the University of Oldenburg (HIFMB)
- Claire Lajaunie, French Institute of Health and Medical Research
- Nils Bunnefeld, University of Stirling, EKLIPSE

The programme of the meeting was:

- ***What to consider for the KEP – Introduction***
    - *Gabriella Lovasz, Europa Media, RESTOREID*
- ***Short introduction of the participants***
- ***Short introduction to RESTOREID and the synergies and differences with the BiodivRestore KH***

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    - *Lucinda Kirkpatrick, University of Bangor, RESTOREID*

- ***Existing links and collaboration with BiodivRestore through the collaborative work of BioAgora and Biodiversa+ on supporting the NRR (and other projects and initiatives)***

    - *Marie Vandewalle, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, ALTERNET, BioAgora, EKLIPSE, RESTOREID, Expert for the EU Biodiversity Platform (EUBP) subgroup on Nature Restoration Regulation (European Commission - DG ENV)*

- ***Introduction to ZOE and the Integrative Knowledge Platform***

    - *Wendy K. Jo, Charité Medical University of Berlin, ZOE*

- ***RESTOREID KEP Survey results***

    - *Gabriella Lovasz, Europa Media, RESTOREID*

    - *Soushieta Jagadesh, ALTERNET, RESTOREID*

- ***Discussion points***

The second meeting was organized on 7th April.

Attendees:

- Gabriella Lovasz, Europa Media Norge AS
- Lucinda Kirkpatrick, University of Bangor
- Dr. Prachi Ugle - Technical Specialist and Lead Environmental and Climate Change Services at IUCN COMMISSION CEESP, ESDW ESDN, IUCN Commission, Sustainable Procurement Pledge Ambassador, Commonwealth Universities for Higher Education, UNFCCC, IFRS, UNSDGs Global Platform
- Prof Norbert Tchouaffe, Associate Professor at the University of Ebolowa and Vice Rector at Kesmonds International University in Cameroon

RESTOREID introduced the KEN initiative, the survey results and asked the attendees if there is any other requirement or idea RESTOREID should take into consideration. With these two meetings we managed to consult the European Commission, Knowledge Center for Biodiversity, Joint Research Centre, Biodiversa+, BioAgora, EKLIPSE.

The consultation meetings were very useful and cleared some of the doubts on the parallel running activities in the field of restoration, biodiversity and one health.

The European Commission confirmed that BioAgora shall be supported in developing a new Knowledge Exchange Network on Restoration and Health where experts from the academia, practice and policy shall exchange information and knowledge to enhance science-based transformative change. RESTOREID should not duplicate these efforts and develop an own knowledge exchange platform.

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BioDivRestore Hub discussions showed that more knowledge is needed on the connection between restoration and zoonotic spillover – there is a need to spread this knowledge into other networks and platforms.

And our own conclusion was that there is need to share more information on existing initiatives, networks and projects with all European and international stakeholders. International stakeholders were particularly interested in training, networking, and capacity building possibilities.

6. Conclusions

As a conclusion, there are three main task for RESTOREID to complete under Task 6.3 – the development of the KEN.

1.

The key need that BioDivRestore Hub experts also highlighted in their discussions is to collect and share more knowledge, data and evidence on restoration and the risk of emerging zoonotic diseases.

Therefore RESTOREID will focus on this aspect when developing and sharing data on Open Science Framework and the ZOE Integrative Knowledge Platform.

2.

RESTOREID will provide support for BioAgora in establishing the Restoration and Health Knowledge Exchange Network.

3.

RESTOREID will support all stakeholders in raising awareness on existing initiatives by developing a sub-page on https://restoreid.eu/ listing, summarizing the existing initiatives with a search and filtering function.

7. Attachments

Attachment 1: KEP Consultation presentation

Attachment 2: KEP Survey results – summary ppt

Attachment 3: ZOE and the Integrative Knowledge Platform

Attachment 4: KEP Survey results – analysis filtered for EU projects

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RESTOREID

2025

Restoring Ecosystems to Stop the Threat Of (Re)-Emerging Infectious Diseases

Consultation meeting on the Knowledge Exchange Platform or Network
31st March 2025

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We will cover today

- ***What to consider for the KEP – Introduction***
  - *Gabriella Lovasz, Europa Media, RESTOREID*
- ***Short introduction of the participants***
- ***Short introduction to RESTOREID and the synergies and differences with the BiodivRestore KH***
  - *Lucinda Kirkpatrick, University of Bangor, RESTOREID*
- ***Existing links and collaboration with BiodivRestore through the collaborative work of BioAgora and Biodiversa+ on supporting the NRR (and other projects and initiatives)***
  - *Marie Vandewalle, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, ALTERNET, BioAgora, EKLIPSE, RESTOREID, Expert for the EU Biodiversity Platform (EUBP) subgroup on Nature Restoration Regulation (European Commission - DG ENV)*
- ***Introduction to ZOE and the Integrative Knowledge Platform***
  - *Wendy K. Jo, Charité Medical University of Berlin, ZOE*
- ***RESTOREID KEP Survey results***
  - *Gabriella Lovasz, Europa Media, RESTOREID*
  - *Soushieta Jagadesh, ALTERNET, RESTOREID*
- ***Discussion points***

Restoration Knowledge Exchange Platform or Network

- *RESTOREID identified and engaged with relevant European and international agencies and initiatives working in the field of restoration and zoonotic diseases.*
- *The first task (T6.1) was a **wide survey** to have a full understanding on the needs of all stakeholders in terms of scope, functions, content and maintenance of the KEP.*

- *In Task 6.2 the KEP Consultation engages with all key actors (EC, IPBES,BISE, JRC, EC KCB, etc.) to make decisions, discuss options for the KEP (scope, functions, implementation and maintenance).*

Aims and functions of a KEP

- *KEP Scope: Establish an online and offline **collaboration tool and knowledge and information exchange facilitator** for the various stakeholders in the field of the prevention of zoonotic disease emergence in relation to biodiversity, ecosystem services and restoration.*
- *KEP functionalities: knowledge repository (data, protocols, reports, etc.), calls for interest, news and events, community cases and studies, structured evidence for policy support; toolkits available (e.g. through connection to PANORAMA); innovations of interest (e.g. through connection with Innovation Radar); access to expert support; digital space for networking and discussions through e.g. thematic expert groups with wiki joint working space on OSF and archive space; access to risk assessment layers and decision-support tool for specific stakeholders.*

Potential activities of a KEP

KEP Yearly Action Plan proposed for consultation:

- *Organise thematic seminars bringing together experts, stakeholders, and policy makers – also JRC.*
- *Facilitate peer-to-peer events locally organised by MS and AS.*
- *Showcasing relevant events organised by third parties linking restoration and health.*
- *Collection of data(sets), case studies, policy recommendations, scientific publications, reports, country-relevant information.*
- *Develop/Share digital educational resources.*
- *Organise citizen engagement actions (surveys, guidelines, pilot cases and studies).*

Thank you

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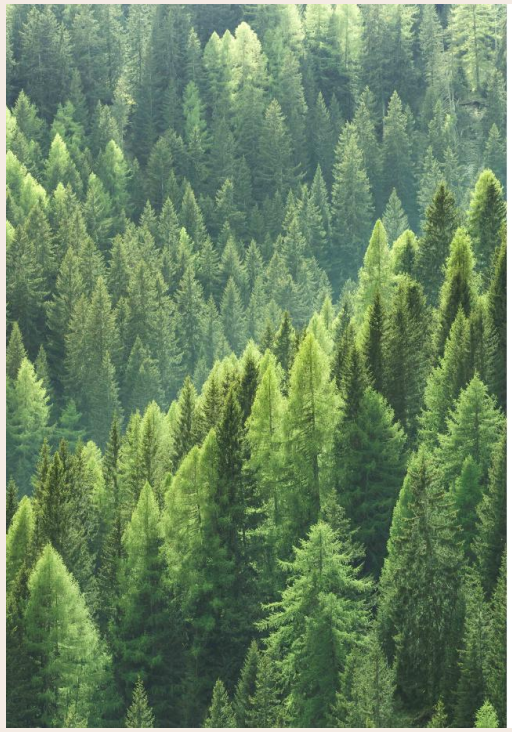
Zoonosis Emergence across Degraded and Restored Forest Ecosystems

bioagora

RESTOREID

The KEP Survey results

3/31/2025



RESTOREID Knowledge Exchange Needs Survey

Survey on Knowledge Exchange Needs Assessment for RESTOREID

Welcome to the RESTOREID project's survey,
in collaboration with ZOE and BioAgora on the needs assessment for a Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN) on restoration and zoonotic disease. This survey aims to gather insights from key stakeholders to help develop an active network that effectively supports the evidence base, resource management, sustainability, and the exchange of existing knowledge among projects and relevant stakeholders in the fields of **restoration and zoonotic diseases.**
A Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN) is more than just a data-sharing platform; it serves as a tool to enhance resource management, evidence base and ensure the use and uptake of existing knowledge.

The KEN's added value will continue to grow as it evolves, providing the following key benefits:
- **Projects Legacy Framework:** The network will ensure long-term projects impact through continuous knowledge exchange within the topical network.
- **Comprehensive Knowledge Exchange with Policy and Society:** It will act as a one-stop shop, facilitating interactions between science, policy, and society.
- **Inclusive Network:** The KEN will nurture an inclusive community of stakeholders working towards common goals in biodiversity, restoration, and zoonotic disease management.
- **Policy Engagement:** The platform will create a community capable of addressing policy needs, closing knowledge gaps, and defining research priorities, in line with the upcoming expectations from the European Commission's Science Service for Biodiversity.

This survey will focus on promoting collaboration, sharing best practices, and ensuring the sustainability of restoration efforts, while engaging experts and stakeholders at the intersection of restoration and zoonotic diseases. Your participation is essential to help shape the Knowledge Exchange Network to meet the needs of all involved.
Thank you for contributing to the success of this Knowledge Exchange and the broader goals of the RESTOREID, ZOE and BioAgora projects.

OK

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Summary of Key Data Points

RESTOREID

- **Total Responses:** ~360
- **Unique Countries:** ~70
- **Most Represented Country:** Kenya (~25 responses)
- **Continents Represented:** Africa, Asia, Europe, South America, North America, Oceania
- **Europe represented**: United Kingdom (13), Spain (11), Portugal (10), Belgium (7), Germany (6), France (8), Italy (3), Czech Republic (4), other countries: Malta, Netherlands, Switzerland, Slovakia

Projects represented by the respondents:
RESTOREID,
ID-Alert,
WaterLANDS,
BCOMING,
BEPREP,
BIONEXT,
CLIMOS,
NESTLER,
REST-COAST,
MERLIN,
FOSTA-Health,
SUPERB,
URBANE,
CATALYSE,
ZOE.

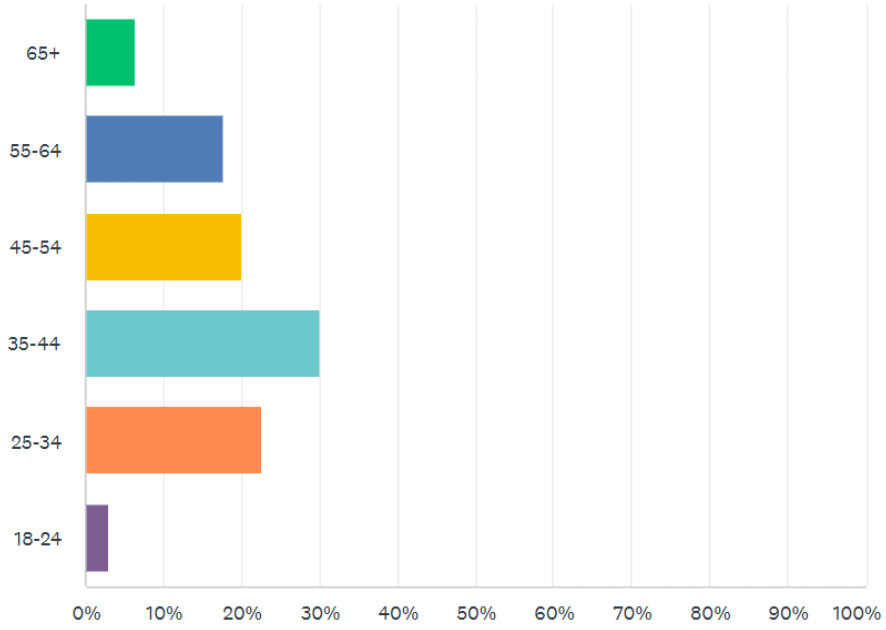
Respondents' Demographics

RESTOREID

Q3

Age group

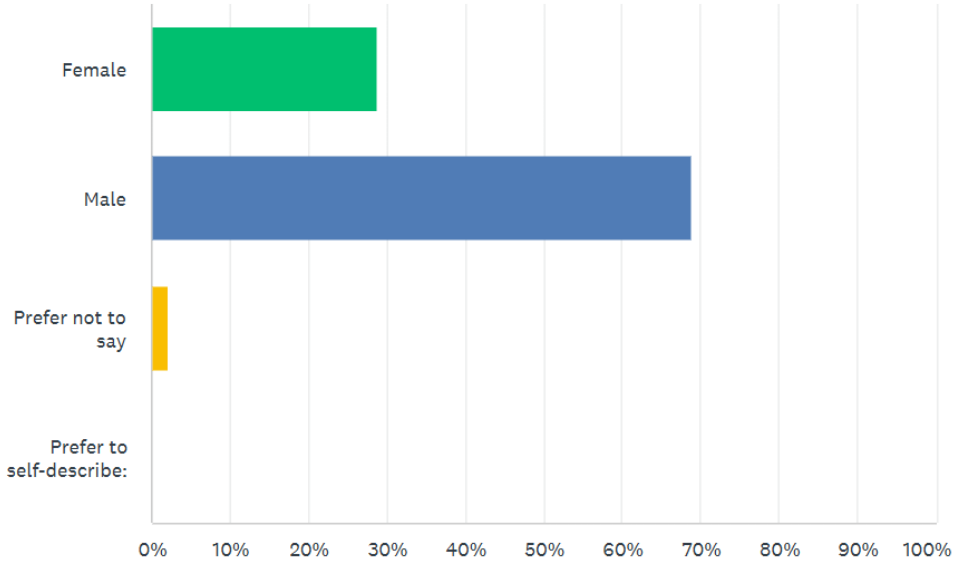
Besvart: 358 Hoppet over: 12



Q2

Gender

Besvart: 344 Hoppet over: 26



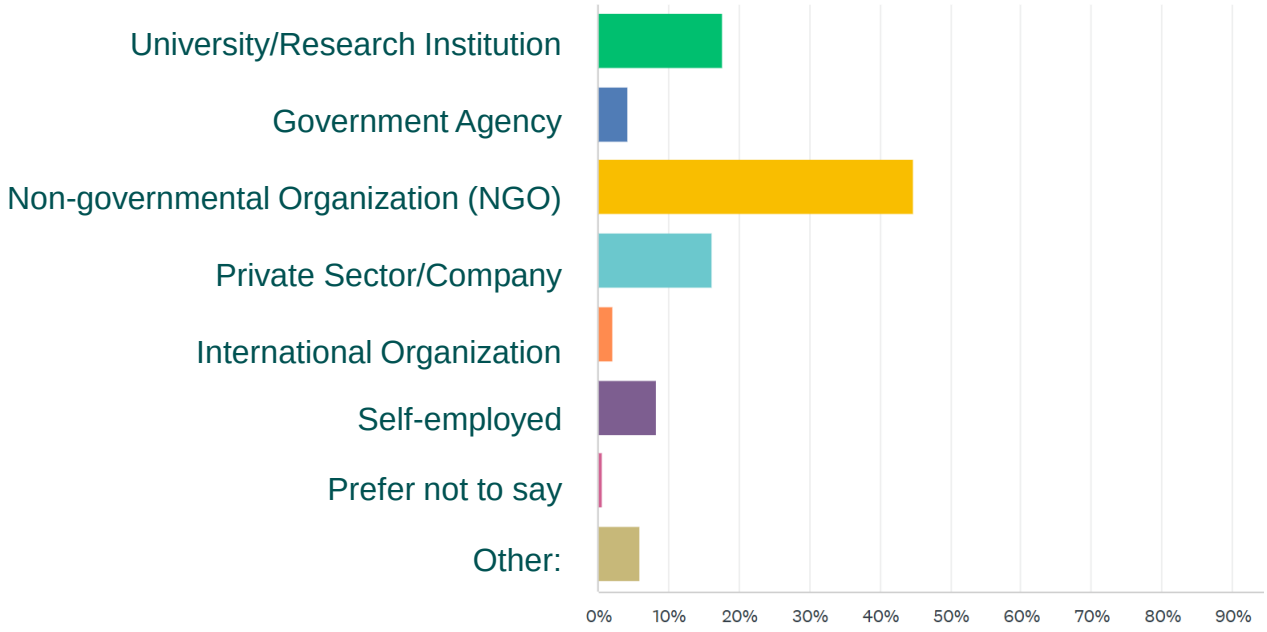
Respondents' Affiliation and Role

RESTOREID

Q5

What is your current affiliation?(Select the option that best describes your primary affiliation)

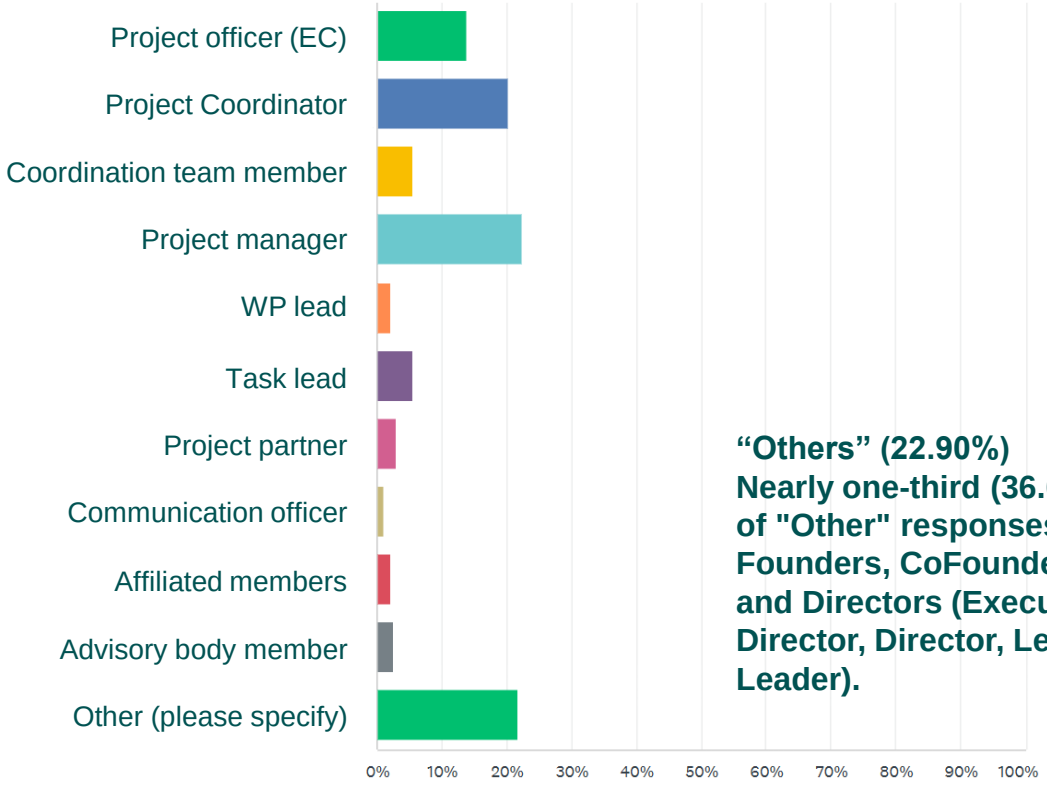
Besvart: 369 Hoppet over: 1



Q8

What is your role in the project?

Besvart: 367 Hoppet over: 3



"Others" (22.90%) Nearly one-third (36.62%) of "Other" responses are Founders, CoFounders, and Directors (Executive Director, Director, Lead, Leader).

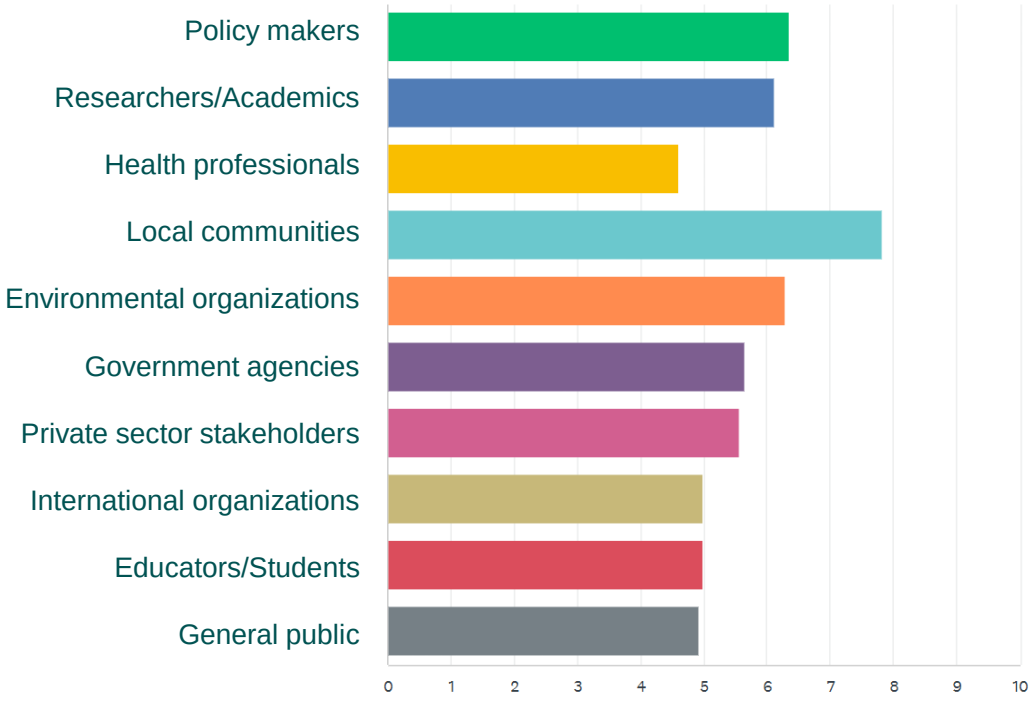
Target Audience

RESTOREID

Q10

Who is the main target audience for your project?(Please rank the following groups in order of importance, with 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important.)

Besvart: 242 Hoppet over: 128



1. **Most Important Target Group: Local Communities (Score: 7.81)**
2. **Second Most Important Target Group: Policy Makers (Score: 6.44)**
3. **Third Most Important Target Group: Environmental Organizations (Score: 6.31)**

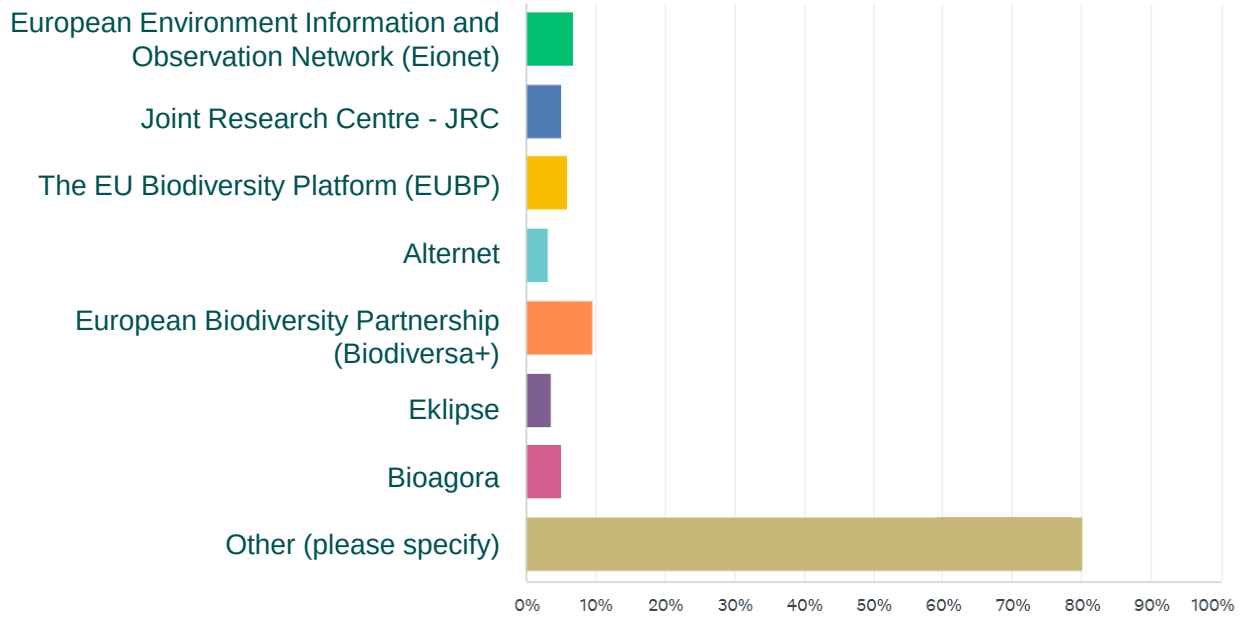
Respondents' Collaborations

RESTOREID

Q26

Are you collaborating with any of the following entities?

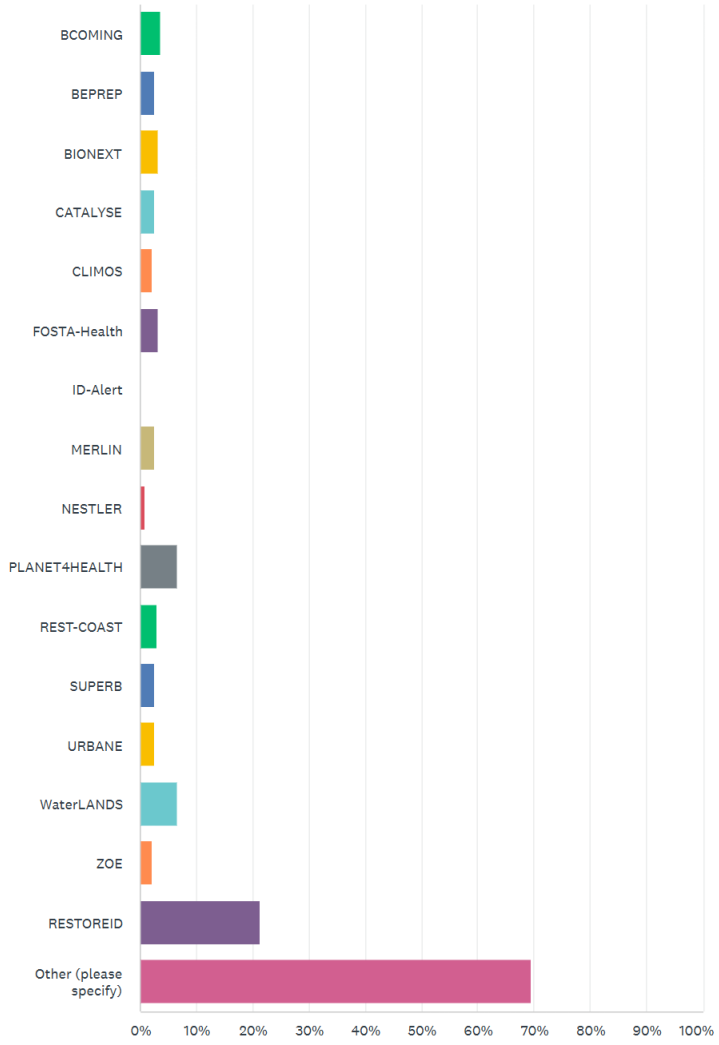
Besvart: 218 Hoppet over: 152



Q9

Which specific EU projects are you mostly collaborating with?

Besvart: 243 Hoppet over: 127



High Percentage of "Other" Responses (67.15%, 139 Responses)

Many responses mention general EU projects rather than specifying names

Respondents' Desired Collaborations

RESTOREID

The survey results suggest a broad interest in **strengthening collaborations** across different stakeholder groups, with a focus on:

1. **Local Governments** (12.90%)
Strong demand for deeper engagement with municipal and regional authorities to enhance project implementation and policy integration.

2. **Funding Bodies** (11.29%)
A clear need for greater financial support and sustainable funding mechanisms for restoration and conservation initiatives.

3. **Local Communities** (10.75%)
Highlighting the importance of grassroots engagement and community-driven projects for long-term impact.

4. **Research Institutions & Academics** (9.68%)
Indicates the need for scientific collaboration and knowledge exchange to support evidence-based decision-making.

5. **International Organizations** (8.06%)
Emphasis on global partnerships, aligning with EU projects and international conservation efforts.

6. **Restoration & Conservation Organizations** (8.06%)
Collaboration with environmental NGOs and restoration experts to maximize project impact.

Q11 Are there any key actors or stakeholders with whom you would like to develop a stronger collaboration? Please specify. (answers filtered for EU funded projects)

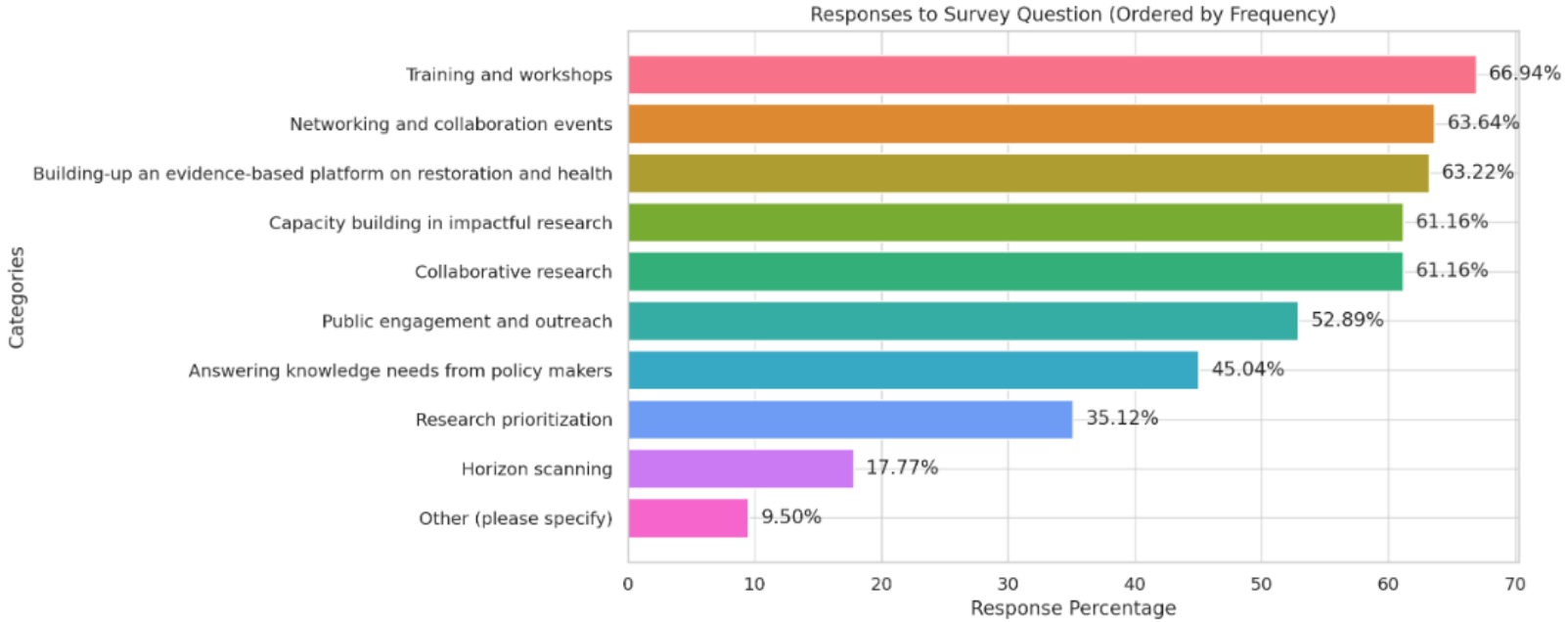
RESTOREID

KEP/KEN specific answers

KEP/KEN Activities

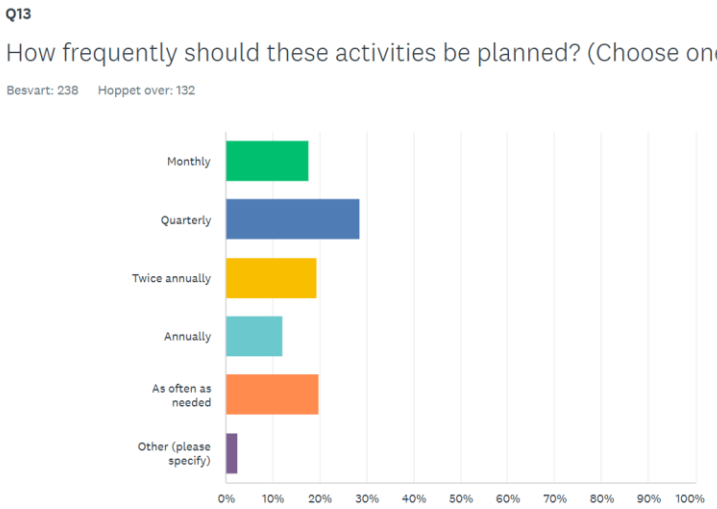
RESTOREID

Q12 What types of activities should be included in the KEN? (Select all that apply and provide details if necessary)



Q13

How frequently should these activities be planned? (Choose one)



KEP/KEN Activities

RESTOREID

Q23 How do you envision the KEN initiative helping you achieve your project's mission? (Please elaborate)

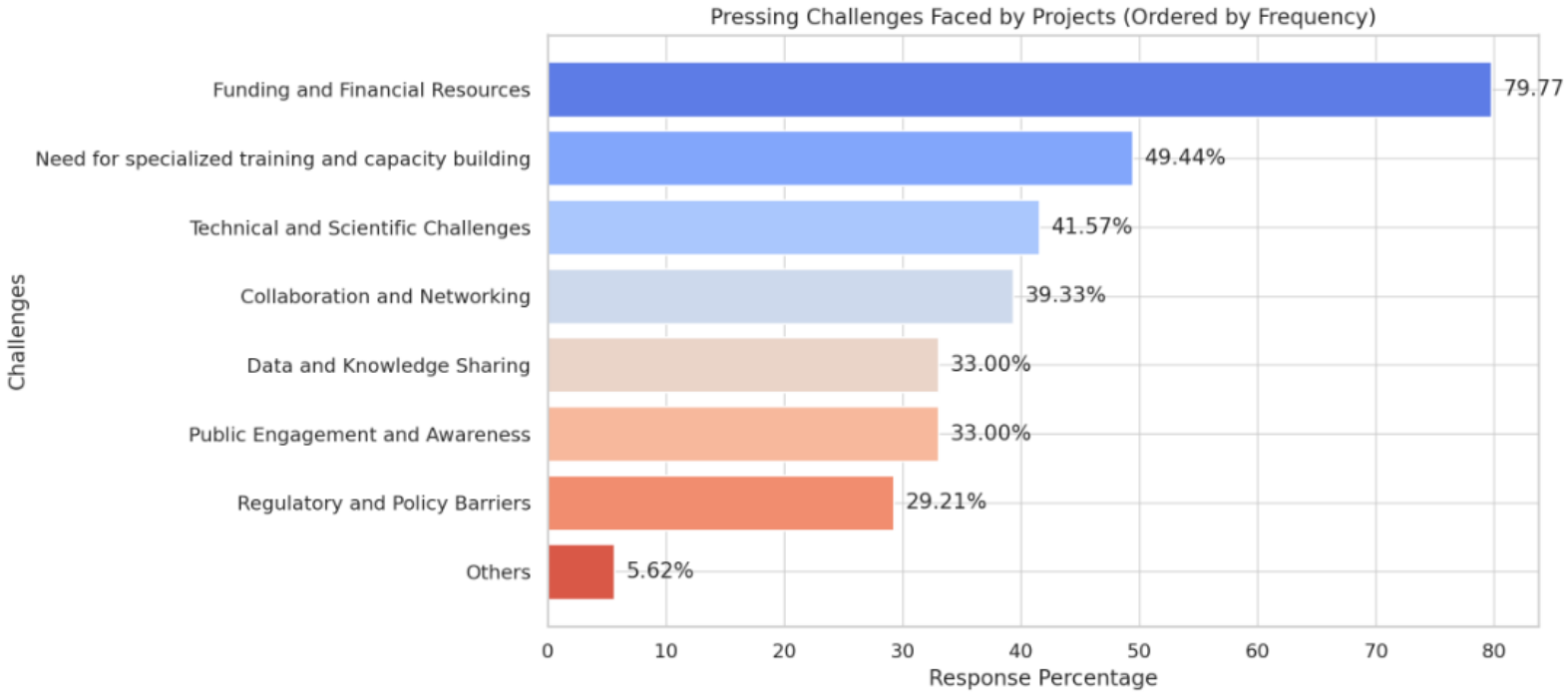
- Providing **knowledge exchange opportunities, funding and collaboration**
- Providing access to a **network of resources, expertise, and funding opportunities**
- Collaborative and useful feedback on **best practices**
- Teamwork and co-creation of projects through collaborating funding
- **Training and Financial and Technical support**
- Facilitates collaborative research
- Supports **data sharing** among researchers, policymakers, and institutions
- Helps establish standardized surveillance protocols
- Engages with government agencies and international organizations (FAO, WHO) to **influence policy.**
- Develops **training programs** for veterinarians, farmers, and food safety officers
- Provides a platform for mentorship between senior researchers and emerging professionals
- Encourages **cross-sector collaboration** in capacity building
- Enhances credibility for joint funding applications through a strong institutional network
- Uses mass media (radio, TV, social media) to **disseminate research findings** in accessible formats
- Creates a **feedback loop between scientific research and real-world application**
- The KEN initiative serves as a bridge between research, policy, and practice
- Fosters knowledge exchange, collaboration, and resource mobilization among key stakeholders
- Fosters an inclusive network of experts and stakeholders
- Collaborative Problem-Solving & Technical Assistance – Engaging in peer-to-peer learning with other organizations facing similar challenges, particularly in sustainable farming, regenerative agriculture, and food security

KEP Challenges

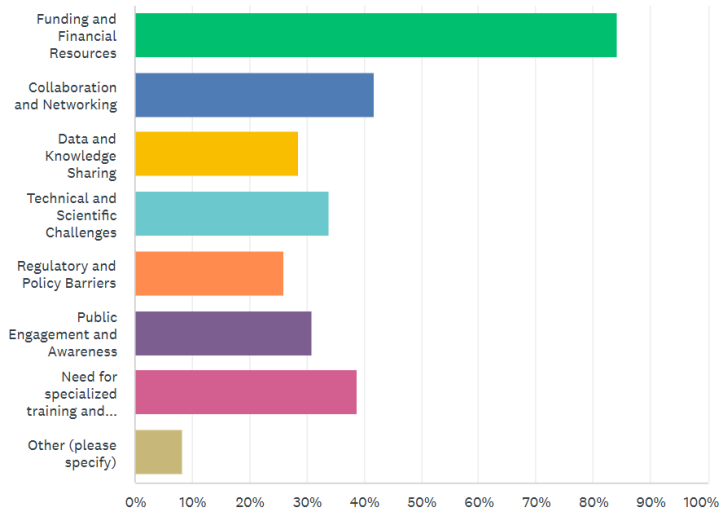
RESTOREID

Q14 What are the most pressing challenges your project is currently facing?

EU project answers



All respondents



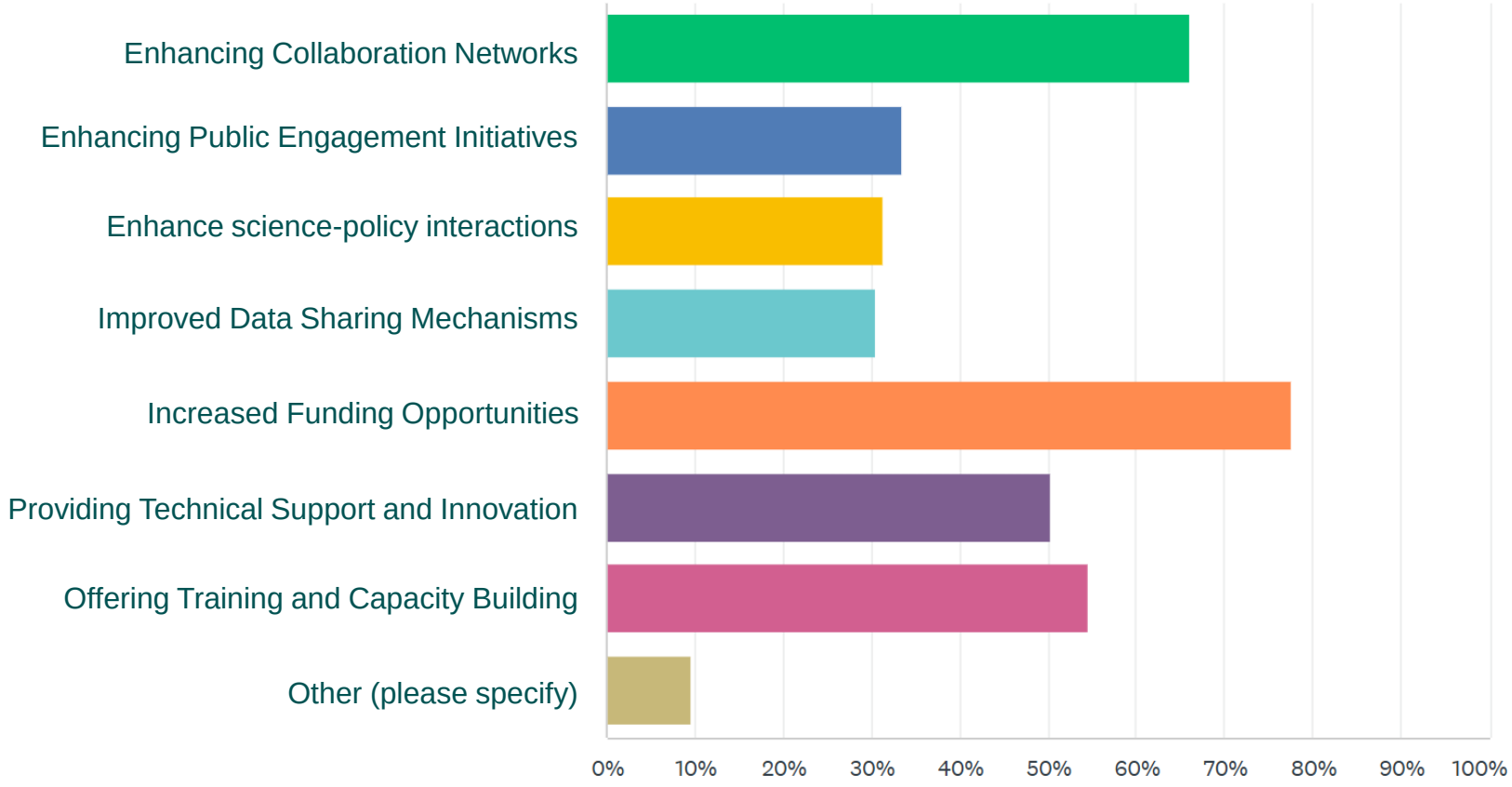
KEP Challenges

RESTOREID

Q15

Can the KEN help address these challenges? If so, how?

Besvart: 242 Hoppet over: 128



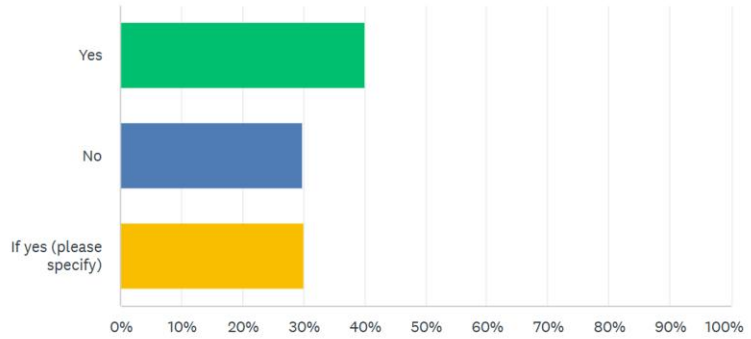
KEP Support

RESTOREID

Q16

Would you be interested in taking some responsibility in the management of one of the proposed activities on behalf of the KEN? If yes, please specify which one(s)

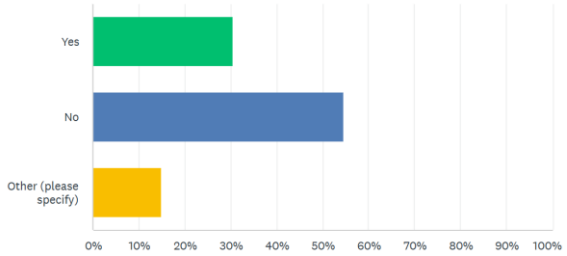
Besvart: 242 Hoppet over: 128



Q17

Do you have resources available to contribute to the development of KEN activities? Please describe.

Besvart: 242 Hoppet over: 128



If yes (please specify)

- International policy advocacy (OHHLEP, Nature4Health, IUCN, ...)
- Collaborative research.
- Collaboration networks
- Training and Capacity Building
- Funding and funding opportunities,
- Application of Artificial Learning and Machine Learning on restoration and conservation work, Data gathering and management
- Dissemination
- Data and knowledge sharing
- Community Engagement Programs
- Sustainability knowledge sharing and exchange among projects and relevant stakeholders
- Project monitoring and evaluation and environmental and social safeguards
- Providing Technical Support and Innovation
- Developing suitable models for restoration
- Enhance science-policy interactions by including artistic research methods
- Monitoring of the implementation/tracking of indicators or progress of project implementation;
- Technology Development
- Efficient biodiversity monitoring and socioeconomic drivers of restoration

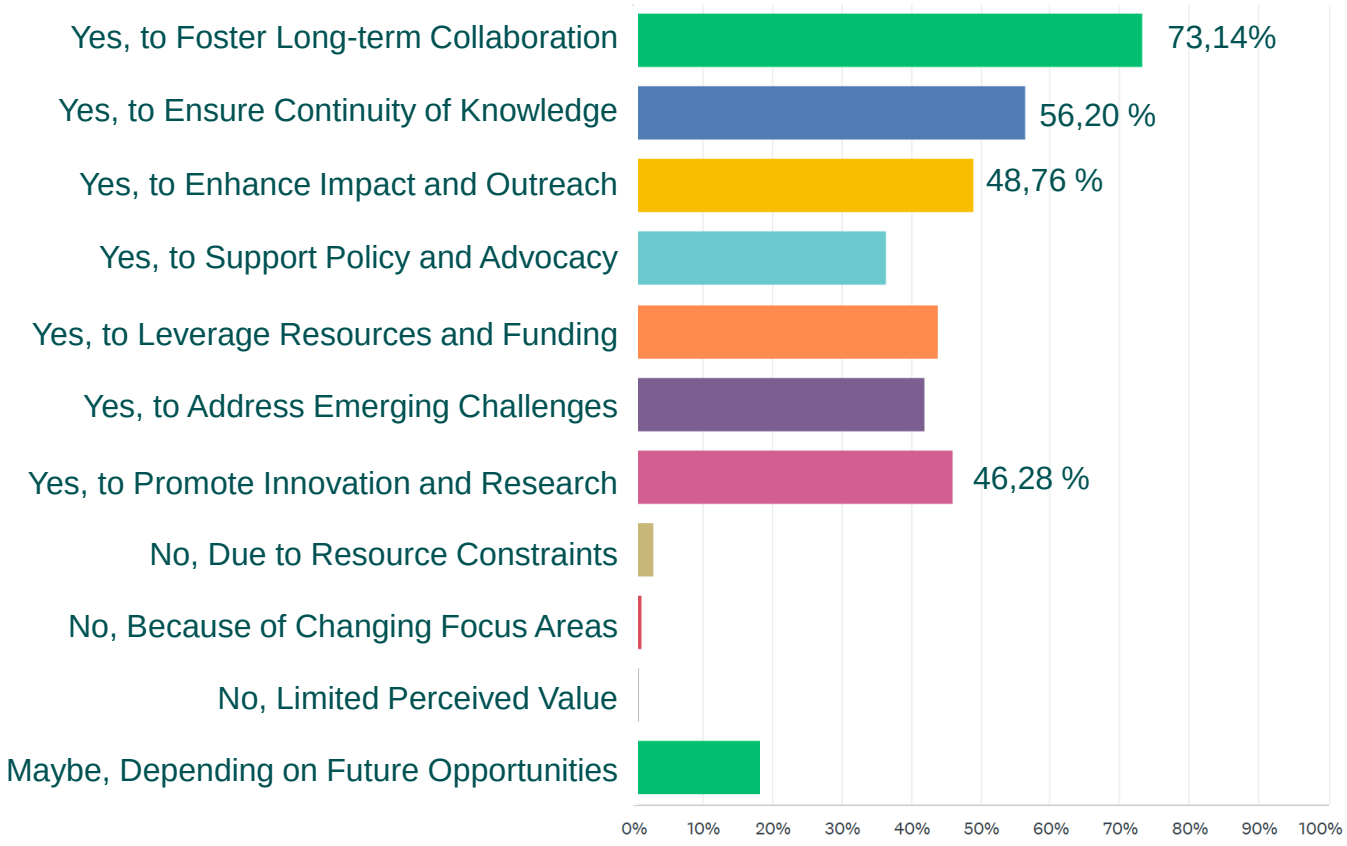
KEP Perceived Value

RESTOREID

Q18

Do you see value in continuing the KEN initiative beyond the duration of the current projects? Please describe.

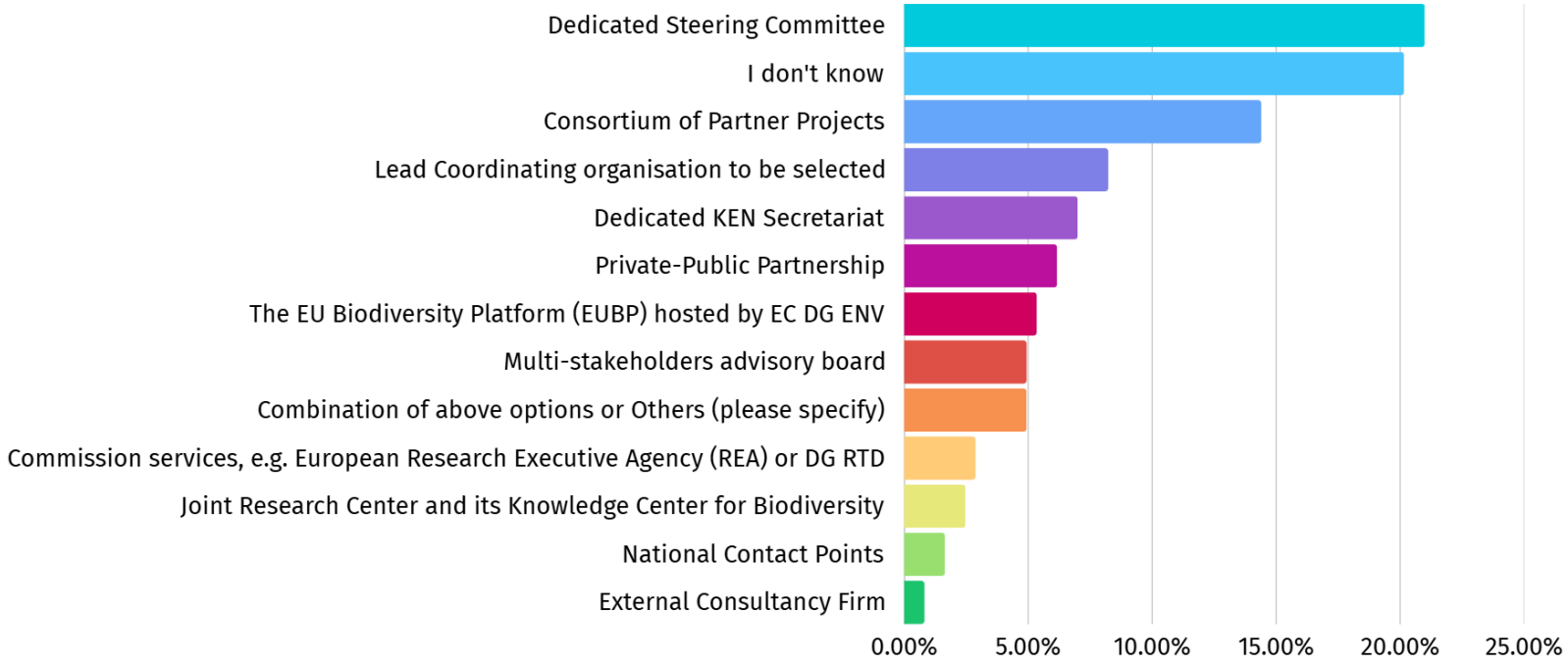
Besvart: 241 Hoppet over: 129

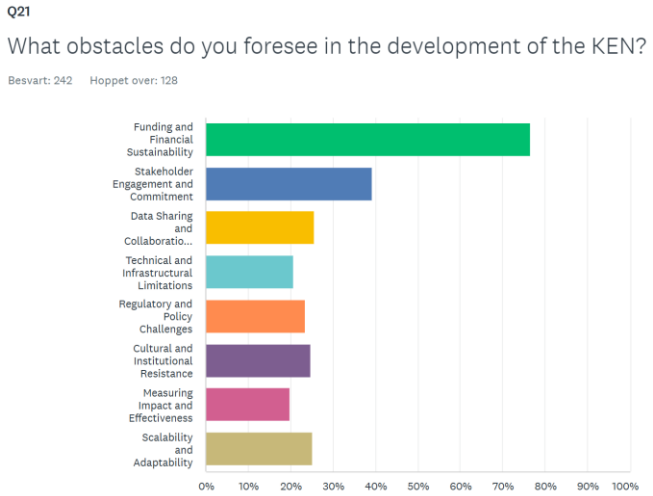


KEP Governance

RESTOREID

Q20: Who should be responsible for the governance and long-term sustainability of the KEN initiative?
Answers: 243





Key gaps in the current science-policy landscape

RESTOREID

Q29 In your opinion, what are the key gaps in the current science-policy landscape, and how can the EU-funded research community be better connected with EU policymaking to enhance the implementation of biodiversity commitments (e.g., BDS2030, NRR, etc.)?

Gaps	Existing initiatives
Lack of **knowledge** sharing Access to **best practices**	Bioagora Knowledge Exchange Networks Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KCBD) Panorama Biodiversa+ Oppla EU CAP NETWORK
Linking with **finance policy** and actors	BioFin BIOCAPITAL Finance for Biodiversity Foundation European Business & Biodiversity Platform
The science-policy landscape would benefit from increased **interaction with private sector actors and civil** society organisations	
It is essential to better integrate the scientific community into policy-making processes, create continuous **feedback mechanisms** and ensure that policies are based on up-to-date data and evidence.	BioAgora Science Service for Biodiversity Science for Environment Policy (SfEP) Scientific Advice Mechanism
Ensure that **grass root organisations** in contact with the communities are engaged	

Key gaps in the current science-policy landscape

RESTOREID

Q29 In your opinion, what are the key gaps in the current science-policy landscape, and how can the EU-funded research community be better connected with EU policymaking to enhance the implementation of biodiversity commitments (e.g., BDS2030, NRR, etc.)?

Gaps	Existing initiatives
Lack of **Interdisciplinary** Collaboration	Horizon Europe projects BiodivRestore Knowledge Hub (52 experts) Alternet / EKLIPSE / BiodivERsA
Insufficient **Data Integration and Accessibility**	ZOE BISE
Limited data interoperability and lack of **effective platforms** for real-time sharing of relevant findings between researchers and policymakers.	EU Biodiversity Platform (EUBP) European Biodiversity Observatory Network (EuropaBON) Global Biodiversity Information Facility
Insufficient **long-term data** on the effectiveness of biodiversity restoration efforts and lack of mechanisms to track outcomes from EU policies.	Integrated European Long-Term Ecosystem Research (eLTER Copernicus Programme
Existing policies may not be fully aligned, leading to inconsistencies in how biodiversity is addressed **across sectors**.	JRC
Local knowledge and perspectives are often excluded from policy formation, leading to misaligned strategies that do not **consider the specific challenges faced by communities**.	
Lack of **knowledge exchange and networking** between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to ensure **restoration efforts align with public health** priorities	(BioAgora, EKLIPSE, RESTOREID, ZOE)

RESTOREID

KEP discussion points

Discussion points

RESTOREID

SUMMARY – what the stakeholders want

- The KEN/KEP initiative should serve as a bridge between research, policy, and practice
- The strong emphasis on training, networking, and capacity building suggests that there is a need for capacity-building services and opportunities for regular interactions – workshops/discussions/networking
- A pressing challenge stays the funding and financial resources
- There is a need for strengthening the science-policy interface but also translating scientific results and data for policymaking
- Besides the science-policy interface – stakeholders highlight the involvement of the civil sector into the discussions - engage with local communities and get their feedback through grass root organisations, NGOs
- More knowledge on zoonotic spillover – spread this knowledge into other networks and platforms (KH feedback)

The stakeholders are not fully aware of existing initiatives and support – thus the questions are:

- Do we need a network where experts discuss issues or a platform where they can do it? Or both? None?
- How can the KEN/KEP be complementary to existing initiatives, platforms, knowledge hubs?
- Is the need for data sharing and/or common protocols covered?
- Is OSF an adequate platform for collaboration?
- Are there any EU requirements/needs that help us in taking the next steps?
- Should we extend this KEN discussion to GBIF/FAO/WHO-OHHLEP/IUCN/Nature4Health/IPBES?

RESTOREID

Thank you

RESTOREID https://restoreid.eu/

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Zoonosis Emergence
across Degraded and Restored
Forest Ecosystems

https://www.zoe-project.eu/

Integrative Knowledge Platform

RESTOREID/ZOE Meeting 31 March 2025

Wendy K. Jo, PhD
Postdoctoral Researcher & Admin support/ZOE
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

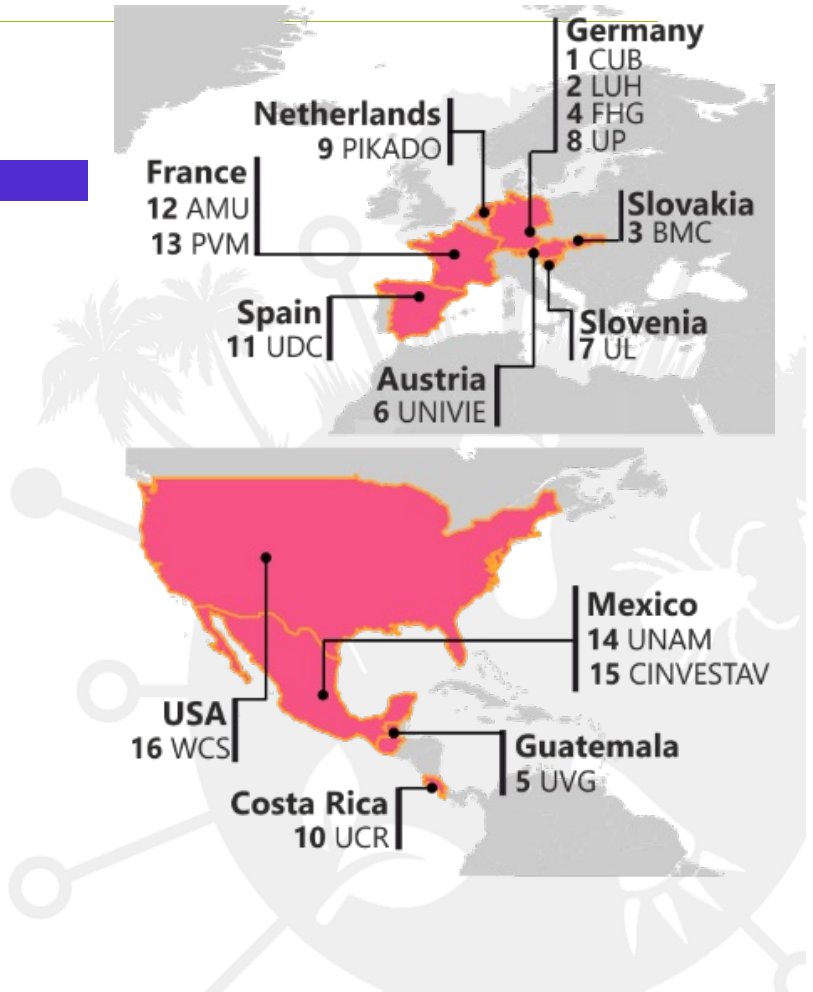
Funded by
the European Union

ZOE

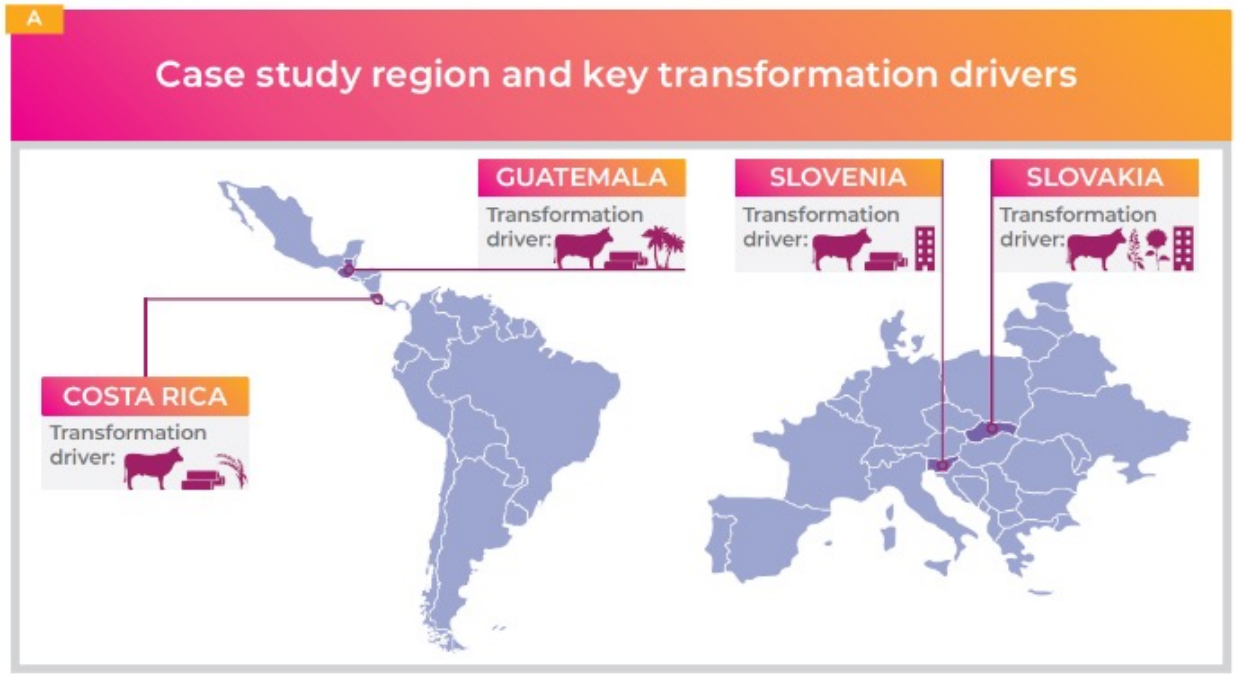
- ZOE aims at examining the connections between land use changes, loss of biodiversity, and the risk of zoonoses in tropical biodiversity hot-spots facing loss of primary forest and biodiversity and in temperate regions that have undergone ecosystem degradation and deforestation over historical timescales.

Consortium

No.	PI	Organisation
1	Felix Drexler	Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (CUB; coordinator)
2	Nadja Kabisch	Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universität Hannover (LUH; co-coordinator)
3	Boris Klempa	Biomedicinske Centrum Slovenskej Akadémie (BMC)
4	Sebastian Ulbert	Fraunhofer Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung (FHG)
5	David Morán	Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG)
6	Kerstin Krellenberg	Universität Wien (UNIVIE)
7	Tatjana Avšič Županc	Univerza V Ljubljani (UL)
8	Damaris Zurell	Universität Potsdam (UP)
9	Leslie Reperant	Pikado B.V. (PIKADO; SME)
10	Andrea Chaves	Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR)
11	Adina Dumitru	Universidade da Coruna (UDC)
12	Xavier Lamballerie	Université d'Aix-Marseille (AMU)
13	Ana Escalante / Gerardo Suzán	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM; assoc. partner)
14	Carlos Ibarra Cerdeña	Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados (CINVESTAV; assoc. partner)
15	Christian Walzer	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS; assoc. NGO partner)



Case studies

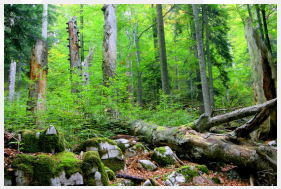


Costa Rica

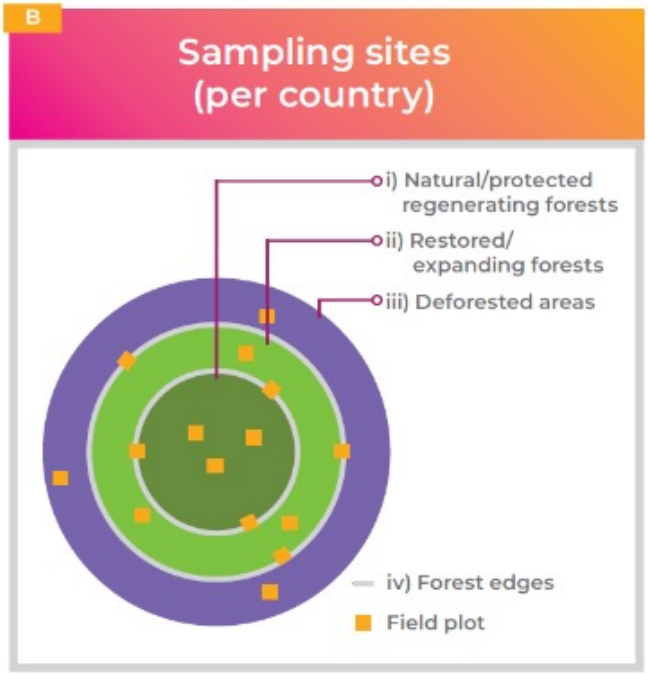
Guatemala

Slovakia

Slovenia

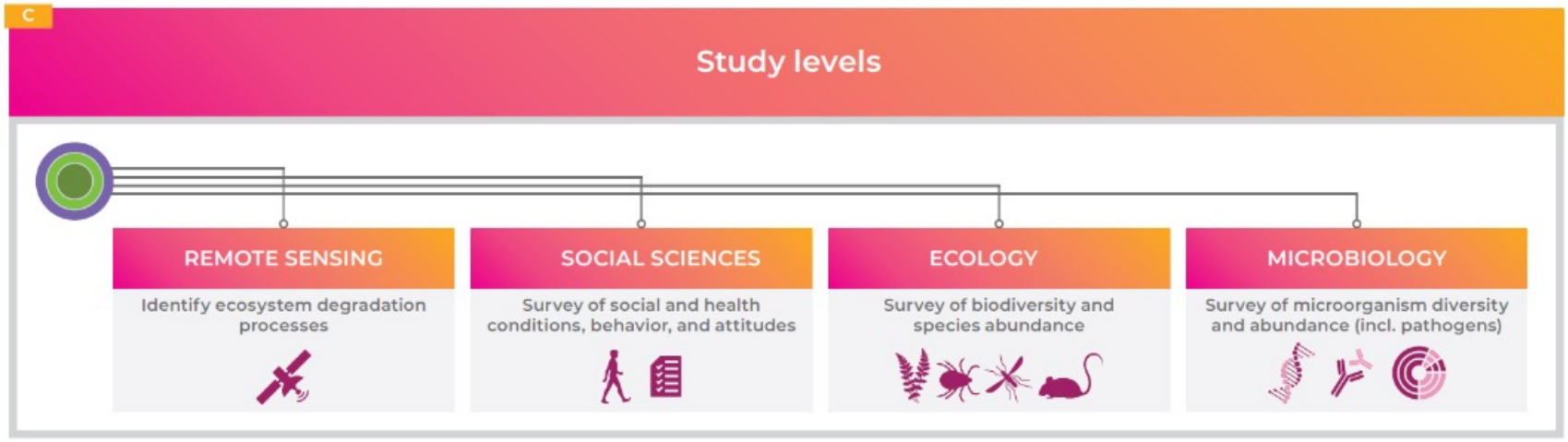


Case studies



FOREST DEGRADATION LEVEL	FAO CATEGORY
i) Natural/protected regenerating forests	Primary forest
	Naturally regenerating forest
ii) Deforested areas	Deforested area
iii) Restored/ expanding forests	Planted forest
	Forest expansion area
iv) Forest edges	Fragmentation?

Case studies



RESTOREID & ZOE
Joint deliverable KEP

Objectives:

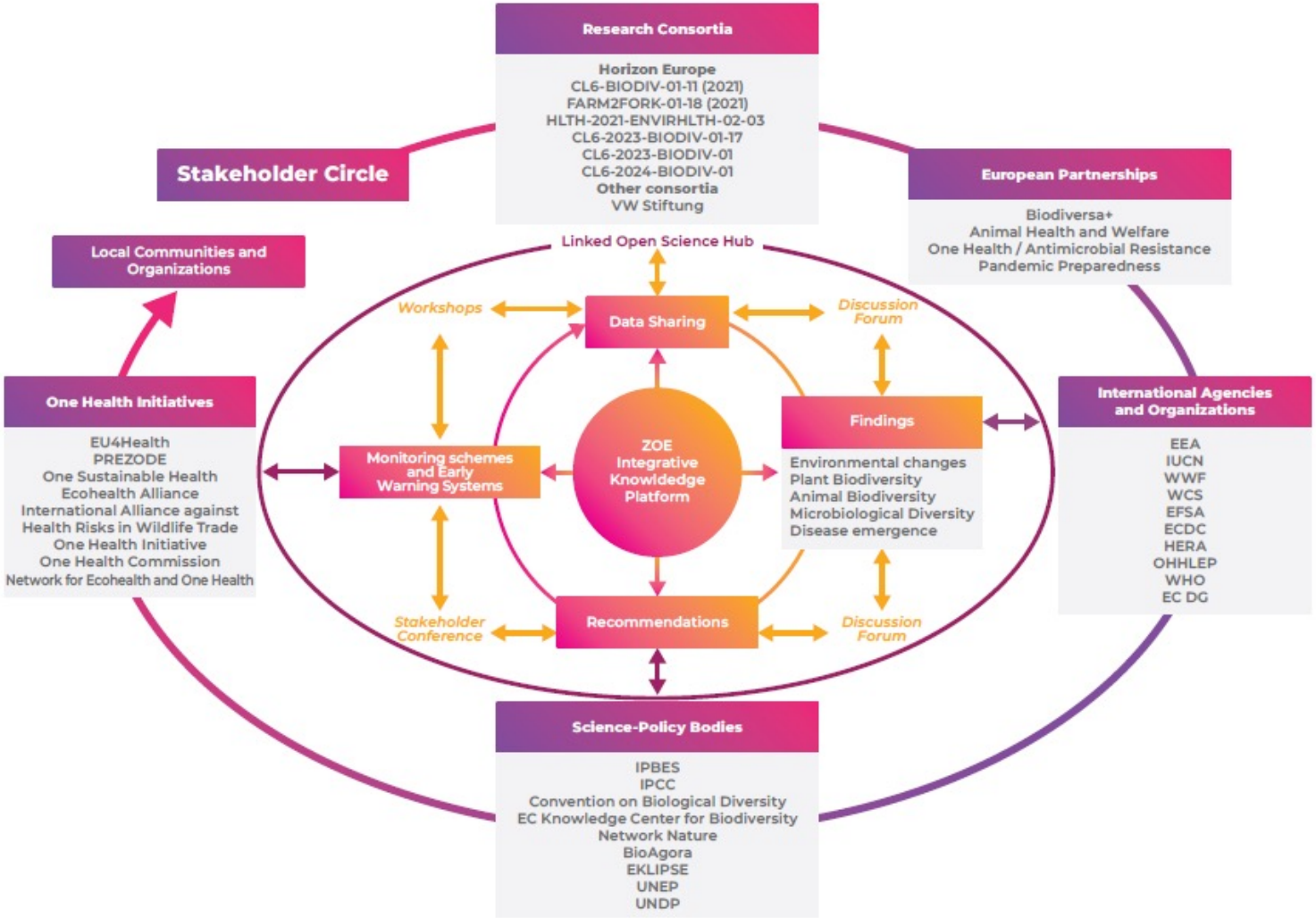
1. Share data, sampling site locations, protocols and methodologies;

2. Disseminate and share findings over LULC and other environmental changes, plant biodiversity, animal biodiversity, microbiological biodiversity, and the emergence of zoonotic and vector-borne diseases;

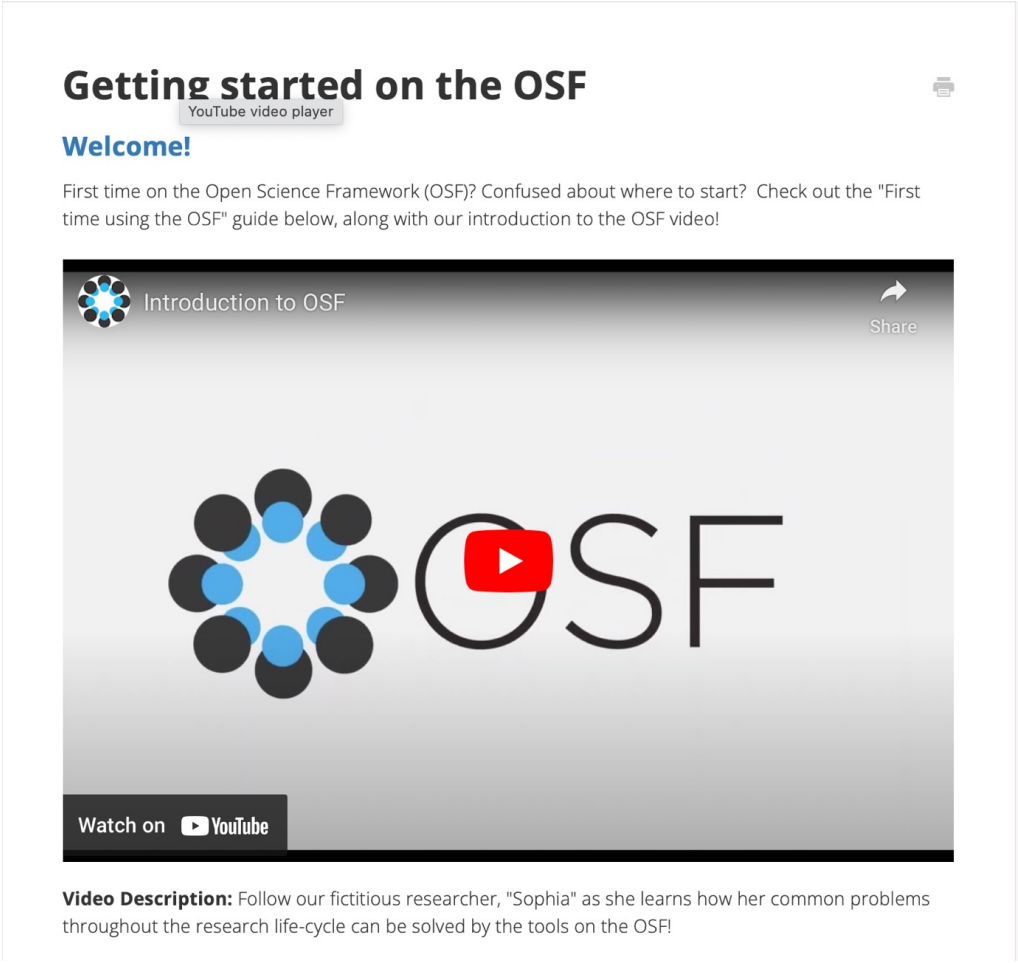
3. Issue recommendations and propose practical policy strategies, involving local communities and stakeholders through co-creative activities, co-design, and co-assessment; and

4. Improve monitoring schemes and support the development of robust early warning systems in a One Health context.

ZOE Integrative Knowledge Platform



Open Science Framework osf.io



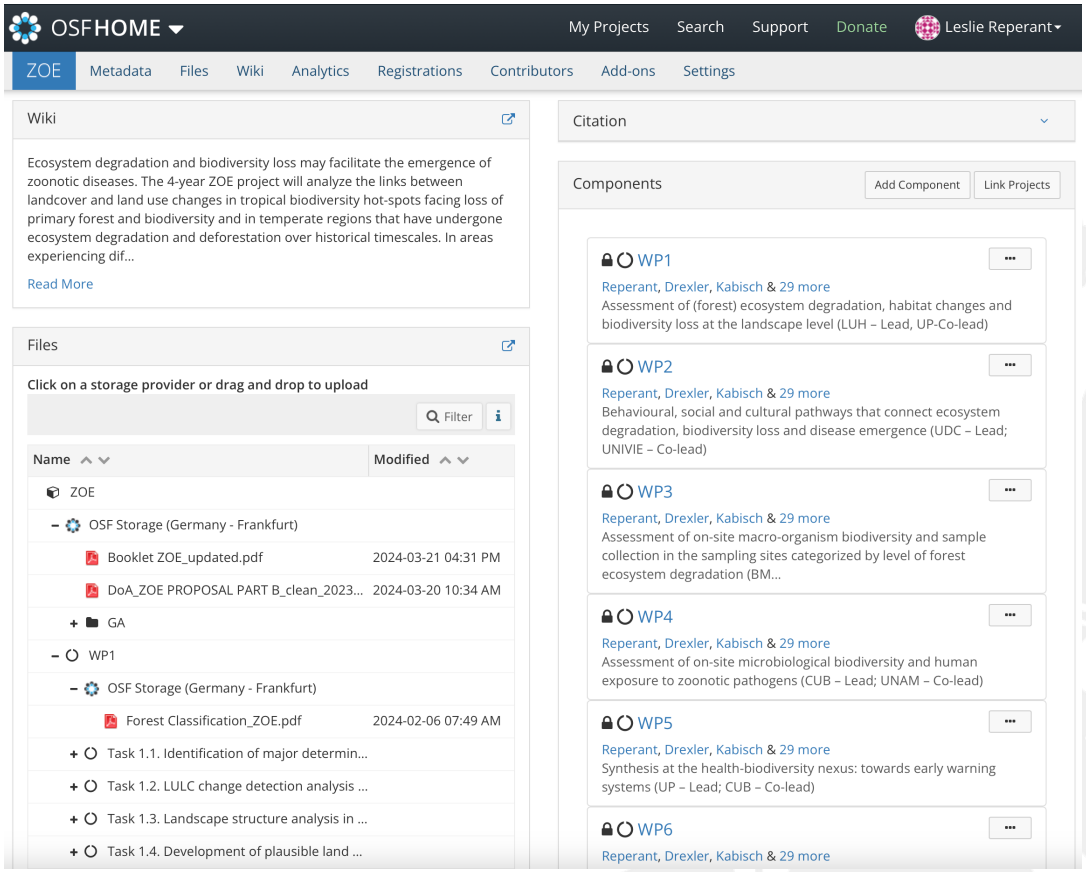
- The OSF is a free open-source software project that facilitates open collaboration in science research.
- As a collaboration tool, OSF helps research teams work on projects privately or make the entire project publicly accessible for broad dissemination.
- As a workflow system, OSF enables connections to data, preprints, and data management and research planning that researchers already use, streamlining their process and increasing efficiency.

ZOE private account

Can be used as a Sharepoint

Allows to keep info confidential or make info public

As part of the IKP, ZOE invites other projects, including RESTOREID, to register on the OSF.



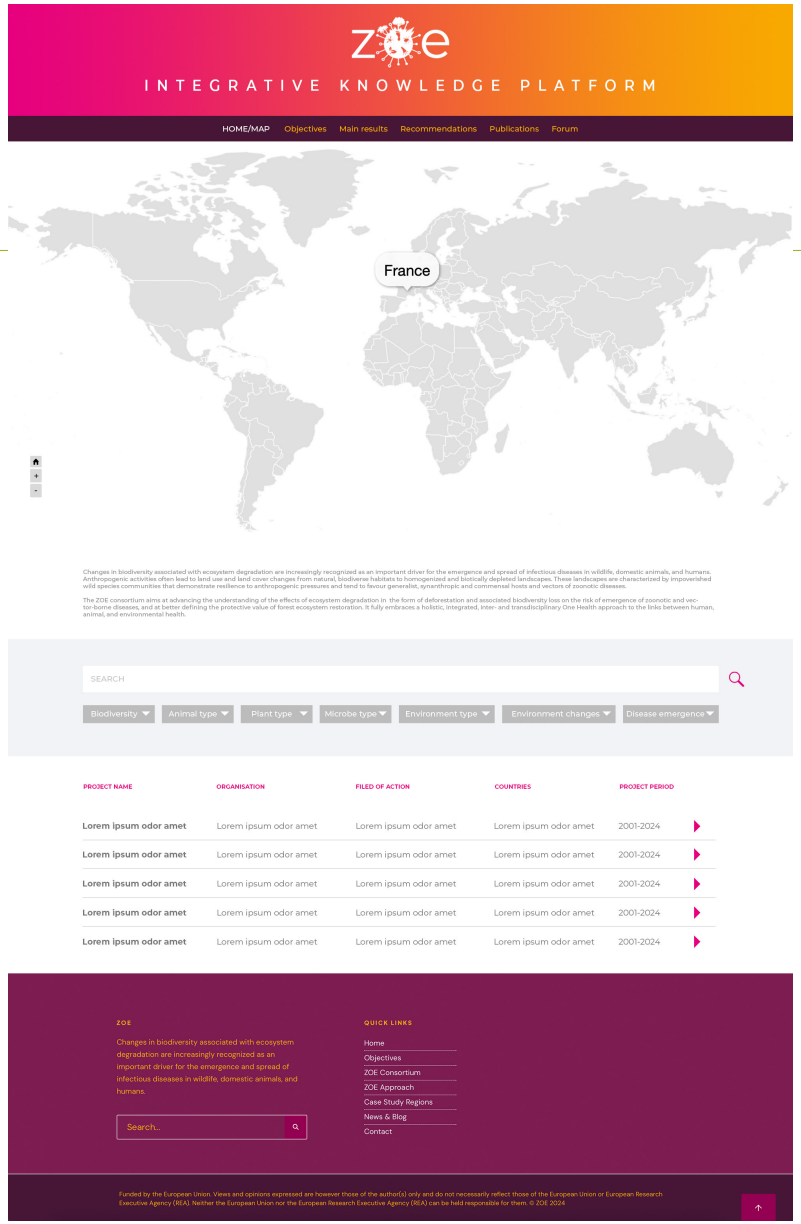
ZOE Integrative Knowledge Platform

Platform of the International Alliance against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade

https://alliance-health-wildlife.org/projects/

- Linking to:

- Project's and partner's websites and OSF accounts
- Searchable and categorized index
- Private discussion forums
- Events
- Resources


INTEGRATIVE KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM
HOME/MAP Objectives Main results Recommendations Publications Forum
France
Changes in biodiversity associated with ecosystem degradation are increasingly recognized as an important driver for the emergence and spread of infectious diseases in wildlife, domestic animals, and humans. Anthropogenic activities often lead to land use and land cover changes from natural, biodiverse habitats to homogenized and biotically depleted landscapes. These landscapes are characterized by impoverished wild species communities that demonstrate resilience to anthropogenic pressures and tend to favour generalist, synanthropic and commensal hosts and vectors of zoonotic diseases.
The ZOE consortium aims at advancing the understanding of the effects of ecosystem degradation in the form of deforestation and associated biodiversity loss on the risk of emergence of zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, and at better defining the protective value of forest ecosystem restoration. It fully embraces a holistic, integrated, inter- and transdisciplinary One Health approach to the links between human, animal, and environmental health.
SEARCH
Biodiversity Animal type Plant type Microbe type Environment type Environment changes Disease emergence
PROJECT NAME ORGANISATION FILED OF ACTION COUNTRIES PROJECT PERIOD
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Changes in biodiversity associated with ecosystem degradation are increasingly recognized as an important driver for the emergence and spread of infectious diseases in wildlife, domestic animals, and humans.
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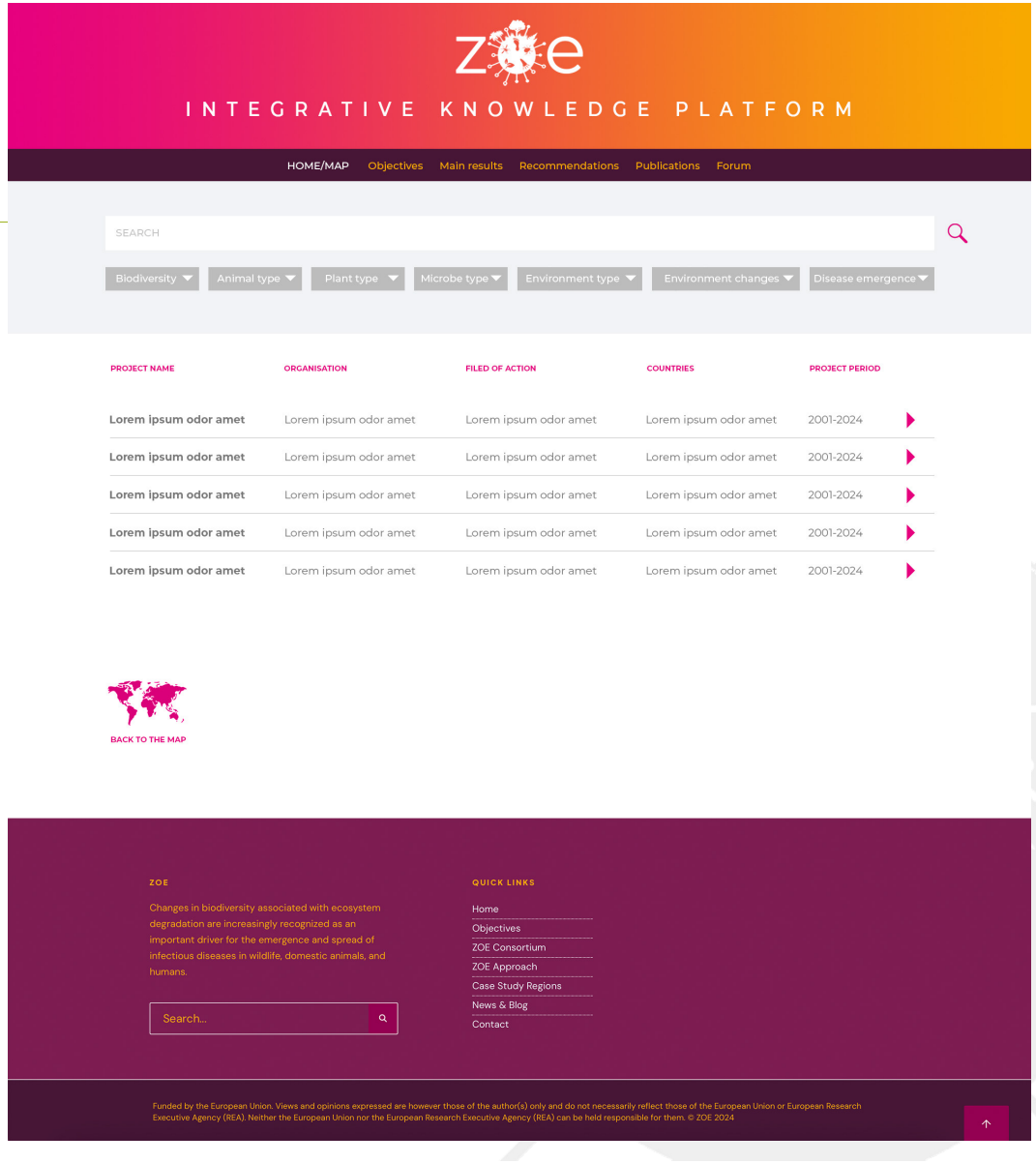
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BACK TO THE MAP
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Changes in biodiversity associated with ecosystem degradation are increasingly recognized as an important driver for the emergence and spread of infectious diseases in wildlife, domestic animals, and humans.
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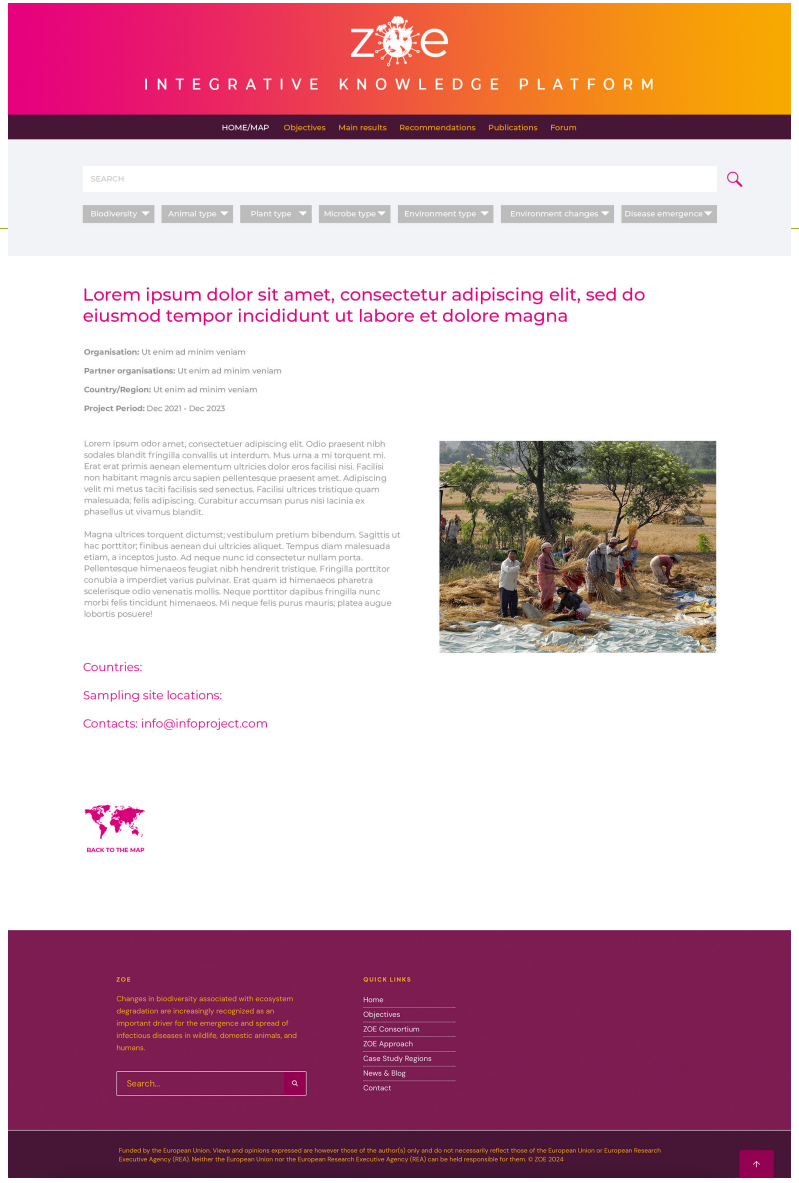

- Project (name, number, link)
- Funding agency
- Lead organization (name, country, link)
- Period of funding
- List of partners
- Sampling sites

Fields of Investigation

- Biodiversity
- Animals
- Plants
- Microbes/Parasites
- Environments
- Environmental changes
- Disease metrics

Zoonosis Emergence
across Degraded and Restored
Forest Ecosystems

Thank you

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@zoe-eu.bsky.social

ZOE Project
Horizon Europe

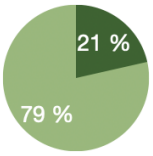
Funded by the European Union

This project has received funding from the Horizon Europe Research &Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101135094

Analysis report of the Knowledge Exchange Network Needs Survey- Focus on respondents affiliated to EU projects

Soushieta Jagadesh - ALTERNET

Total responses: 333



EU Affiliation: 91/333 respondents

Typical time spent: 21m:26s

Most skipped question: Q29 (172 skipped)

Section 1: General Information and Demographic Breakdown

Q1. Name Submission:

Answered: 91

Skipped:0

- High response rate, indicating strong engagement.

Q2. Gender Distribution:

Answered: 84

Skipped: 7

Breakdown:

- Female: 26.04% (25 respondents)
- Male: 72.22% (56 respondents)
- Prefer not to say: 1.39% (2 respondents)
- Prefer to self-describe: 1 respondent (self-described as Male)

Q3. Age Distribution:

Answered: 89

Skipped: 2

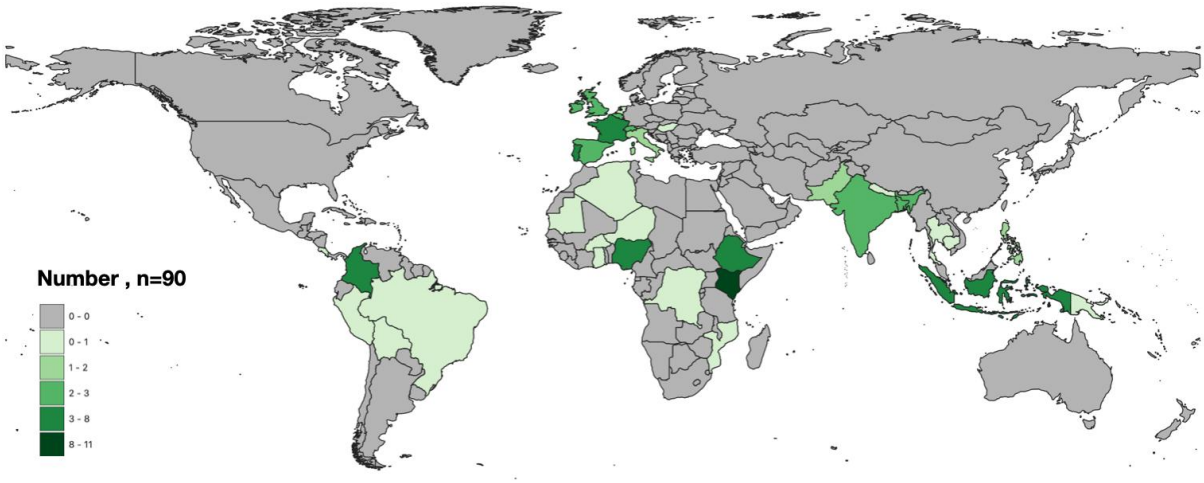
Breakdown:

- 35-44 years: 36% (32 respondents)
- 25-34 years: 28.1% (25 respondents)
- 45-54 years: 22.47% (20 respondents)
- 55-64 years: 5.6% (5 respondents)
- 45-54 years: 4.49% (4 respondents)
- +65 years: 3.37% (3 respondents)

Q4. Geographical distribution:

Answered: 91

Skipped:0



One of the respondents answered “Europe and Other Global Operating Regions

Q5: Affiliation Breakdown:

Answered: 91

Skipped: 0

Breakdown:

- Non-governmental Organization (NGO): 45.06% (41)
- University/Research Institution: 28.1% (25)
- Private Sector/Company: 14.29% (13)
- Self-employed: 6.6% (6)
- Others: 4.4 % (4)
- International Organization: 2.2% (2)

Q7: Description of the project's primary objective:

Answered: 85

Skipped: 6

Summary of Project Objectives Across Key Themes

1. Health & Disease Ecology
    - Strengthening zoonotic disease surveillance, education, and response (Mwenga project, HealthDeep).
    - Investigating cross-species virus transmission in wildlife (Tanzanian bat ecology project).
    - Community-led health and public advocacy initiatives (Association for Humanitarian Development Pakistan, Community Advocacy on Public Health).

2. Environmental Restoration & Conservation
    - Large-scale afforestation, agroforestry, and reforestation initiatives (Mau Restoration Project, SUPERB, En Aawa Trees Foundation, Mount Kenya Landscape Restoration, My Forest Africa).
    - Coastal and mangrove restoration (Calabar coastal mangroves, MedGardens).
    - Restoration of degraded landscapes (Mau Forest, Livingstonia Landscape Restoration, Zwara salt pans).

3. Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihoods
    - Regenerative agriculture for food security and climate resilience (Mencil Lestari Social Forestry, Regenerative Agriculture in Northern Nigeria, Barpipal Regenerative Farm).
    - Agroforestry models integrating economic benefits for communities (Segen Kenya, BioFin-EU, Pragmatick Action).
    - Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) use for sustainable livelihoods (Bioterreta Custodia Agraria).

4. Policy, Governance & Community Engagement
    - International policy advocacy and biodiversity governance (RestoreID, BioFin-EU, LIFE IP Azores Natura, GreenME).

- Public engagement and environmental education (Water Wise, Climate Guardians, Ghana Permaculture Institute).
- Strengthening grassroots resilience to climate change (Promoting Climate Change Resilience for Grassroots Women).

5. Technology, Research & Innovation
   - AI and machine learning applications in conservation and restoration (HealthDeep, Future Connect).
   - Innovative rodent and pest management in agriculture (RodentGate).
   - Artificial wetlands for ecosystem services (Fundación Pacto).

Q8: Respondents' Roles in the Project

Answered: 91

Skipped: 0

Key Findings

- Project Managers (24, 26.37%) and Coordinators (19, 20.88%) dominate the responses, reflecting strong participation from individuals overseeing project execution.
- Project Officers from the European Commission (15, 16.48%) are well represented, indicating institutional interest in monitoring project implementation.
- Coordination team member (4, 4.4%), Work Package (WP) Leads (4, 4.4%), Task Leads (4, 4.4%), Advisory body member (2, 2.2%), and Project partner(2, 2.2%), are underrepresented, possibly pointing to a need for further engagement from technical leads.
- Communication Officers (2, 2.2%) have a very low response rate, which may indicate that dissemination specialists are not as actively engaged in the survey.
- "Others" (12 , 13.19%)

Section 2: Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN)

Q10: Analysis of EU Project Collaborations

Total Responses: 89

Skipped: 2

Breakdown:

- Top Collaborated EU Project: RESTOREID (55.1%, 49 responses)
- Most Mentioned Projects:
- PLANET4HEALTH – 15.73% (14)
- WaterLANDS – 16.85% (15)
- BCOMING – 8.9% (8)
- REST-COAST – 7.87% (7)
- BEPREP – 6.74% (6)
- BIONEXT – 6.74% (6)
- FOSTA-Health - 6.74 % (6)
- MERLIN – 6.74% (6)
- CATALYSE – 5.62% (5)

- SUPERB - 5.62% (5)
- URBANE - 5.62% (5)
- CLIMOS – 4.5% (4)
- ZOE- 3.37% (3)
- NESTLER – 2.25% (2)

Analysis

- Broader Engagement with Environmental and Health-Focused Projects
- High collaboration levels with RESTOREID, PLANET4HEALTH, WaterLANDS, BCOMING, BEPREP, and BIONEXT, indicating common research themes around biodiversity, health, and ecosystem restoration.
- High Percentage of "Other" Responses (24.72%, 22 Responses)

Q11: Desired Stronger Collaborations with Key Actors & Stakeholders

Answered: 72

Skipped: 19

1. Government and Policy Engagement (26.7%)

- Strong interest in collaborating with EU institutions, national governments, and local authorities to align policies and funding mechanisms with biodiversity and restoration goals.
- Several mention the importance of policy development, regulatory frameworks, and integrating nature-based solutions into climate adaptation strategies.
- Some emphasize engaging with traditional authorities and community leaders for effective implementation.

2. Community-Led and Local Partnerships (24.0%)

- A high priority is given to working with local communities, indigenous groups, women-led organizations, and grassroots conservation movements.
- Many emphasize incorporating traditional knowledge and community-based restoration approaches.
- Some highlight the role of local governance structures in ensuring long-term project sustainability.

3. Funding and Financial Support (21.3%)

- Many respondents seek partnerships with EU funding agencies, financial institutions, and private investors to secure resources for environmental initiatives.
- Calls for increased capital investment in nature-based solutions, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable land management.
- Interest in aligning efforts with EU climate resilience initiatives and international conservation funding (e.g., GEF, USAID, IDRC).

4. International Organizations & Development Partners (19.5%)

- A significant proportion of respondents highlight collaboration with UNEP, UNDP, World Economic Forum, and regional entities like the African Union.
- Interest in knowledge-sharing, funding, and scaling up restoration efforts through global initiatives.

5. Private Sector & Industry Engagement (13.6%)

- EU-funded project respondents' express interest in partnering with businesses and industries that align with sustainability goals.
- Focus on corporate sponsors, green technology firms, and companies supporting ecosystem restoration.
- Calls for stronger market incentives for sustainable land use and biodiversity-friendly products.

6. Academic and Research Institutions (17.1%)

- Many respondents emphasize partnerships with universities, research centers, and EU-funded scientific networks.
- Interest in monitoring restoration impacts, biodiversity conservation, and developing training programs.
- Specific institutions mentioned include Wageningen University, University of British Columbia, and the Society for Ecological Restoration.

7. Sector-Specific Collaboration (15.8%)

Respondents seek specialized partnerships in key areas:

- Forest restoration and conservation (10.4%)
- Biodiversity protection (8.3%)
- Sustainable land management (7.9%)
- Tree nursery production and plant science training (5.7%)
- Health care systems and zoonotic disease prevention (6.8%)

Key Takeaways for EU-Funded Project Respondents:

- Government engagement (26.7%) is the top priority, with a strong focus on policy development and regulatory alignment.
- Funding remains a major challenge (21.3%), with respondents seeking financial support from EU mechanisms and global donors.
- Local and community partnerships (24.0%) are highly valued for integrating traditional knowledge into biodiversity efforts.
- International organizations (19.5%) play a key role in scaling and knowledge exchange.
- Academic partnerships (17.1%) are crucial for research, ecological monitoring, and training.

Q12: Types of activities that should be included in the Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN):

Answered: 89
Skipped: 2

Key Findings

1. Training and Workshops (61, 68.53%)
   - The most highly selected activity, indicating a strong demand for capacity-building opportunities to enhance skills and knowledge sharing.
2. Capacity Building in Impactful Research (61, 68.53%)
   - Demonstrates the need for equipping researchers and practitioners with tools to ensure their work leads to real-world impact.

3. Networking and Collaboration Events (60, 67.42%)
   - Suggests that stakeholders highly value opportunities to connect with peers, fostering interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration.

4. Building an Evidence-Based Platform on Restoration and Health (56, 62.92%)
   - Highlights the importance of consolidating research findings to support decision-making and policy development.

5. Answering Knowledge Needs from Policy Makers (51, 57.3%)
   - Shows a recognition of the role of research in informing policy decisions, ensuring science is translated into actionable strategies.

6. Collaborative Research (51, 57.3%)

- Indicates a strong preference for joint initiatives that integrate multiple disciplines, institutions, and stakeholders.

7. Public Engagement and Outreach (48, 53.93%)
   - Underlines the importance of communicating research outcomes effectively to the broader public and key stakeholders.

8. Research Prioritization (34, 38.2%)
   - Suggests that defining key focus areas remains essential but is not as immediate a priority compared to other activities.

9. Horizon Scanning (18, 20.22%)
   - Lower selection rate, possibly indicating that while important, foresight exercises are less pressing compared to direct engagement and capacity-building activities.

10. Other (6, 67.42%)

Analysis & Implications:

- The strong emphasis on **training, networking, and capacity building** suggests that the KEN should focus on practical, interactive, and collaborative opportunities rather than just static knowledge repositories.
- **Bridging science and policy** is a key priority, reinforcing the need for platforms that translate research into policy-relevant insights.
- **Public engagement** is a significant focus, indicating a need to improve science communication strategies.
- The relatively lower importance of horizon scanning may suggest that stakeholders currently prioritize **immediate research** and implementation efforts over long-term forecasting.

Q13: Frequency of Activities in the Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN)

Answered: 89
Skipped: 2

<u>Key Findings:</u>

- Monthly (26, 29.21%)
- Quarterly (19, 21.35%)
- Annually (15, 16.85%)
- As Often as Needed (13, 14.61%)
- Twice Annually (13, 14.61%)
- Other (2, 2.25%)

Analysis & Implications:

- Monthly and Quarterly scheduling seems to be the most practical approach, providing regular opportunities for engagement.
- The flexibility in scheduling indicates that demand-driven activities could be beneficial.

Q14: Most Pressing Challenges Faced by Projects

Answered: 89
Skipped: 2

Key Findings:

- Funding and Financial Resources (71, 79.77%)
- Need for specialized training and capacity building (44, 49.44%)
- Technical and Scientific Challenges (37, 41.57%)
- Collaboration and Networking (35, 39.33%)
- Data and Knowledge Sharing (32, 33%)
- Public Engagement and Awareness (32, 33%)
- Regulatory and Policy Barriers (26, 29.21%)
- Others (5, 5.62%)

Analysis:

- Funding remains the dominant issue, affecting sustainability, scalability, and resource allocation.
- Training and technical challenges show a demand for capacity-building initiatives within the Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN).
- Collaboration and networking barriers indicate a need for structured platforms to connect stakeholders.
- Improving data accessibility and regulatory navigation could enhance project impact.
- Public engagement efforts may require targeted communication strategies.

Q15: How the (KEN) Can Help Address Challenges

Answered: 89
Skipped: 2

Key Findings:

- Increased Funding Opportunities (65, 73.03%)
- Enhancing Collaboration Networks (62, 69.66%)
- Offering Training and Capacity Building (48, 53.93%)
- Providing Technical Support and Innovation (44, 49.44%)
- Enhancing Science-Policy Interactions (33, 37.08%)
- Enhancing Public Engagement Initiatives (32, 35.96%)
- Improved Data Sharing Mechanisms (30, 33.71%)
- Other (9, 10.11%)

Analysis:

- Funding remains a top priority, indicating that KEN should actively seek ways to connect projects with grant opportunities and funding bodies.

- Strengthening networks and capacity building are critical for long-term sustainability and project success.
- Technical support and improved science-policy engagement can enhance project implementation and real-world impact.
- Public engagement and data sharing mechanisms should be reinforced to maximize knowledge dissemination and collaboration.

Q16: Interest in Taking Management Responsibilities for KEN Activities

Answered: 89
Skipped: 2

Key Insights:

- 44.94% (40 respondents) are interested in taking responsibility for managing a proposed activity within KEN.
- 29.21% (26 respondents) are not interested.
- 25.84% (23 respondents) described potential responsibilities.

<u>Areas of Interest for Responsibilities:</u>

1. International Policy Advocacy & Governance
   Engaging in global initiatives like OHHLEP, Nature4Health, and IUCN to influence biodiversity and restoration policies at international and regional levels.
2. Technology & Innovation in Restoration and Conservation
   Developing and applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to enhance biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem restoration, and conservation planning.
3. Funding & Resource Mobilization
   Identifying funding opportunities, securing financial support for projects, and facilitating grant applications to ensure sustainability and scalability of restoration initiatives.
4. Training & Capacity Building
   Organizing workshops, training programs, and demonstration projects to empower local communities, researchers, and stakeholders in conservation and restoration best practices.
5. Community Engagement & Awareness
   Leading environmental education, outreach initiatives, and participatory restoration projects to involve communities in afforestation, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation efforts.
6. Monitoring, Evaluation, & Research
   Developing metrics to assess ecological and social impacts, conducting biodiversity monitoring, and studying socioeconomic drivers of restoration for data-driven decision-making.
7. Public Engagement & Advocacy
   Promoting sustainable development policies, integrating environmental education in schools, supporting emergency response

for climate-related disasters, and fostering youth and gender empowerment in conservation.

Q17: Resources Available to Contribute to the Development of KEN Activities

Answered: 90
Skipped: 1

Key Insights:
- 37.36 % (34 respondents) have resources available for KEN Activities.
- 53.84 % (49 respondents) have no resources to contribute.
- 7.7% (7 respondents) described the resources available for contribution.

Challenges
- Limited financial resources despite strong expertise and in-kind support.
- Unclear expectations for involvement (some respondents unsure about their role).

Q18: Value of Continuing the KEN Initiative Beyond Current Projects

Key findings
Most respondents (75%) see value in continuing KEN, with multiple reasons highlighting its long-term benefits:

1. Fostering Long-Term Collaboration (67, 73.36%)
   - Ensures sustained partnerships between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.
   - Strengthens interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral knowledge exchange.
2. Ensuring Continuity of Knowledge (53, 58.24%)
   - Prevents knowledge loss after projects end.
   - Maintains an accessible database of best practices, lessons learned, and research outputs.
3. Enhancing Impact and Outreach (46, 50.55%)
   - Expands the initiative's reach to new stakeholders and geographies.
   - Bridges gaps between science, policy, and practice.
4. Promoting Innovation and Research (45, 49.45%)
   - Supports ongoing experimentation and development of new approaches.
   - Facilitates data-sharing and collaboration on cutting-edge research.
5. Addressing Emerging Challenges (44, 48.35%)
   - Enables proactive responses to new environmental and socio-economic issues.
   - Allows flexibility to adapt to evolving policy landscapes and global crises.
6. Supporting Policy and Advocacy (42, 46.15%)
   - Strengthens evidence-based policymaking.

- Provides a platform for influencing environmental and sustainability policies.

7. Leveraging Resources and Funding (40, 44%)
   - Increases opportunities for joint funding applications and resource mobilization.
   - Encourages partnerships with governments, private sector, and NGOs.

Challenges & Reservations

- Changing Focus Areas (2, 2.2%): Some projects may shift priorities, reducing alignment with KEN.
- Conditional Support (14, 15.38%): Some respondents are open to continuation but emphasize the need for future funding and clear objectives.

Key Takeaways

- Strong mandate for continuation.
- Sustainability planning is needed.
- Ensuring adaptability to evolving research and policy needs.

Q19: KEN Expand to Include More Projects Related to the Topic

Answered: 68
Skipped: 23

Based on relevant responses, the following themes emerged as key priorities:

Capacity Building & Community Engagement

- Strengthening knowledge-sharing, training, and capacity-building efforts.
- Empowering local communities in restoration and conservation efforts.
- Integrating indigenous knowledge and local experiences.

Sustainability & Climate Resilience

- Expanding projects on sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, and land-use practices.
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation, with a focus on nature-based solutions.
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives.

Biodiversity Conservation & Ecosystem Restoration

- Expanding restoration efforts for degraded lands, forests, and water systems.
- Enhancing biodiversity conservation efforts, particularly in vulnerable ecosystems.
- Addressing ecosystem fragmentation through wildlife corridors and habitat protection.

One Health & Zoonotic Disease Prevention

- Strengthening projects at the intersection of human, animal, and environmental health.
- Developing early warning systems for zoonotic disease risks.
- Sustainable management of natural resources to reduce spillover risks.

Sustainable Resource Management
- Advancing circular economy and waste management practices.
- Sustainable harvesting and forest resource management.
- Encouraging green infrastructure and urban biodiversity projects.

Technology & Innovation
- Leveraging AI, remote sensing, and digital tools for environmental monitoring.
- Expanding digital knowledge-sharing platforms for restoration and sustainability.
- Developing innovative environmental education initiatives.

Funding & Policy Support
- Identifying new funding streams and opportunities for scaling restoration projects.
- Strengthening governance, policy frameworks, and regulatory support for sustainability.
- Facilitating international and interdisciplinary collaboration for knowledge exchange.

<u>Key Takeaways</u>
- Strong consensus for KEN's expansion, focusing on sustainability, biodiversity, community engagement, and One Health.
- A need for structured growth by ensuring new projects align with KEN's core mission while maintaining impact.
- Strategic partnerships & funding

Q20. Governance & Long-Term Sustainability of KEN

<u>Key Findings</u>

1. Responses indicate a diverse range of opinions, with no single entity receiving overwhelming support.
2. Most preferred options:
   - Dedicated Steering Committee (23, 25.24%)
   - Consortium of Partner Projects (12, 13.19%)
   - Lead Coordinating Organisation (7, 7.69%)
   - Dedicated KEN Secretariat (7, 7.69%)
   - Private-Public Partnership (5, 5.5%)
3. Less Preferred Options:
   - Multi-stakeholder Advisory Board (4, 4.4%)
   - EU & Research Institutions (Joint Research Centre, EU Biodiversity Platform, REA/DG RTD), National contact points and External consultancy firms– Collectively under 2%, indicating some preference for institutional backing but not as a primary model.
4. Uncertainty & Mixed Approaches:
   - I don't know (15, 16.48%)
   - Combination of above options (4, 4.4%)– Suggesting a hybrid governance framework.

Q21: Key Obstacles in the Development of KEN

Key Findings

1. Funding and Financial Sustainability (71, 78.02%)
2. Stakeholder Engagement and Commitment (42, 46.15%)
3. Technical and Infrastructural Limitations (25, 27.47%)
4. Cultural and Institutional Resistance (24, 26.37%)
5. Regulatory and Policy Challenges (23, 25.3%)
6. Data Sharing and Collaboration Barriers (23, 25.3%)
7. Scalability and Adaptability (23, 25.3%)
8. Measuring Impact and Effectiveness (21, 23.07%)

Key Takeaways

1. Funding and Financial Sustainability as a Core Constraint
   - The overwhelming challenge (78.02%) highlights the difficulty in securing long-term financial support for KEN.
   - Sustainable funding mechanisms, including diversified funding sources (e.g., public-private partnerships, EU grants, and institutional backing), are essential for ensuring continuity and impact.
2. Stakeholder Engagement & Institutional Buy-in Remain Critical
   - Almost half of respondents (46.15%) identified stakeholder engagement as a challenge.
   - Limited commitment from key actors (scientists, policymakers, practitioners) weakens KEN's effectiveness, underscoring the need for incentive structures and clearer benefits to encourage participation.
3. Technical, Infrastructural & Data-Sharing Barriers Undermine Efficiency
   - Issues such as limited digital infrastructure (27.47%) and data-sharing constraints (25.3%) prevent seamless knowledge flow.
   - Improving interoperability of platforms, establishing data-sharing agreements, and enhancing technical capacity can strengthen the network's functionality.
4. Cultural, Institutional, & Policy Challenges Hinder Integration
   - Resistance to change (26.37%) and regulatory hurdles (25.3%) highlight how entrenched institutional norms and fragmented policies create barriers to effective knowledge exchange.
   - Addressing these challenges requires fostering a culture of collaboration and aligning policies across governance levels.
5. Scalability & Impact Assessment Need Greater Attention
   - The ability to expand KEN while maintaining adaptability (25.3%) and measuring its effectiveness (23.07%) remains a challenge.
   - Developing standardized metrics, integrating feedback loops, and ensuring the network evolves to meet emerging knowledge needs are key to long-term success.

Q22: Strategies to Overcome KEN's Obstacles

Answered: 65

Skipped: 26

Key Themes from Responses:

1. Funding and Financial Sustainability
    - Diversification of Funding Sources: Seeking grants from government agencies, international organizations, and private foundations; leveraging crowdfunding; and forming corporate partnerships (e.g., CSR initiatives).
    - Revenue-Generating Models: Developing income-generating activities such as eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, or carbon credit schemes to ensure long-term financial sustainability.
    - Strategic Partnerships: Collaborating with local and international NGOs, government bodies, and private sector actors to co-fund initiatives.
    - Dedicated Secretariat and Governance: Establishing a structured financial management system with accountability mechanisms.

2. Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange
    - Workshops and Training: Conducting specialized training sessions for health professionals, researchers, policymakers, and community leaders on disease surveillance, ecosystem restoration, and zoonotic risk reduction.
    - Technology Adoption: Leveraging digital tools, open-source platforms, and cloud-based data-sharing systems to enhance efficiency and knowledge transfer.
    - Local Empowerment: Engaging communities by providing them with resources and skills to sustain initiatives beyond initial funding cycles.

3. Stakeholder Engagement and Community Involvement
    - Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration: Establishing partnerships with policymakers, researchers, local leaders, and businesses to create a well-integrated ecosystem for project sustainability.
    - Awareness and Advocacy: Running targeted campaigns to educate communities on zoonotic disease risks, conservation benefits, and sustainable practices.
    - Inclusion of Local Knowledge: Ensuring community-driven approaches by involving farmers, hunters, and indigenous groups in decision-making and implementation.

4. Policy Advocacy and Regulatory Alignment
    - Regulatory Harmonization: Aligning project goals with national policies and international frameworks (e.g., UN SDGs, Bonn Challenge).
    - Government Engagement: Working closely with policymakers to secure regulatory support, incentives, and funding for ecosystem restoration and disease surveillance programs.
    - Institutional Strengthening: Strengthening governance structures to facilitate efficient policy implementation and long-term impact.

5. Data Sharing and Impact Measurement
    - Standardized Protocols: Developing clear data-sharing frameworks to facilitate collaboration and evidence-based decision-making.

- Monitoring and Evaluation: Establishing measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and leveraging GIS, biodiversity monitoring, and impact assessments to track progress.
- Transparency and Reporting: Regularly sharing findings with stakeholders to build trust and encourage continuous support.

6. Scalability and Adaptability
   - Pilot Projects and Incremental Expansion: Testing small-scale initiatives before rolling out full-scale implementations, allowing for adjustments based on lessons learned.
   - Flexible Implementation Models: Designing adaptable approaches tailored to local contexts, leveraging feedback for continuous improvement.
   - Collaboration Across Sectors: Engaging interdisciplinary teams (e.g., agriculture, public health, conservation) to develop integrated solutions that address complex challenges.

7. Overcoming Cultural and Institutional Resistance
   - Intercultural Dialogue and Sensitization: Engaging traditional leaders, religious groups, and community influencers to foster acceptance and participation.
   - Behavioral Change Campaigns: Conducting education programs that emphasize the benefits of zoonotic disease prevention and ecosystem restoration.
   - Participatory Approaches: Encouraging local ownership of projects through co-design and co-implementation strategies.

<u>Key Takeaways</u>
- Overcoming KEN's funding and capacity-building challenges requires a multi-pronged strategy that integrates financial sustainability, stakeholder collaboration, policy alignment, and technological innovation.
- By fostering community engagement, leveraging diverse funding mechanisms, and prioritizing knowledge exchange, KEN can enhance its impact in zoonotic disease surveillance, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable development.

Q23: KEN Initiative contributing to Project's Mission

Answered: 67
Skipped: 24

Key Themes from Responses:

1. Facilitating Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange

   - KEN fosters international collaboration, particularly between Europe and ASEAN, ensuring knowledge-sharing between institutions, researchers, and policymakers.

- Respondents emphasize the importance of peer-to-peer learning, particularly among Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) on sustainable forest management and ecosystem restoration.

- The network enhances multidisciplinary networking and knowledge-sharing, increasing access to best practices and innovative solutions.

2. Funding and Resource Mobilization

- Many responses highlight the role of KEN in securing financial sustainability for projects through grants, international funding opportunities, and donor engagement.

- Encourages diversification of funding sources, including partnerships with private enterprises, international organizations (WHO, FAO, UNDP, World Bank), and ethical investors.

- Supports fundraising initiatives and financial visibility for grassroots organizations to complete their projects.

3. Capacity Building and Training

- KEN provides access to training programs, mentorship, and workshops, particularly in conservation techniques, ecosystem restoration, AI and machine learning applications, and project management.

- Capacity-building efforts include skill development for local communities, researchers, and project teams, enhancing efficiency in conservation and restoration work.

- Strengthening governance through participatory decision-making frameworks and active involvement of all stakeholders.

4. Innovation and Technological Integration

- Respondents identify KEN as a platform to integrate digital tools and innovative solutions, such as GIS mapping, remote sensing, and data-driven conservation strategies.

- The application of AI and machine learning in environmental monitoring and restoration is seen as a key advantage of KEN's support.

- Promotes entrepreneurship and sustainable businesses through mentorship and funding programs, fostering innovative green enterprises.

5. Advocacy and Policy Influence

- KEN enhances visibility for sustainable development projects and provides avenues for policy dialogue with governments and international bodies.

- Facilitates engagement with policymakers to push for regulatory reforms that support conservation, sustainable construction, and biodiversity-friendly urban development.

- Encourages project integration into national policy frameworks to ensure long-term institutional support and funding allocation.

6. Strengthening Community Engagement

- Respondents highlight the role of KEN in empowering local communities by amplifying their voices in decision-making processes.

- Promotes participatory governance by integrating local knowledge into conservation strategies and ensuring community-led implementation.

- Supports communication strategies to raise awareness about sustainable practices, including multilingual knowledge-sharing and culturally sensitive educational campaigns.

7. Enhancing Market Access and Sustainable Livelihoods

- Links IPLC-led enterprises to sustainable markets, including certified eco-products and carbon credit trading.

- Provides training on value chain development, cooperative management, and ethical trade.

- Facilitates connections with ethical investors and green financing opportunities to promote long-term economic sustainability.

8. Project Implementation and Impact Monitoring

- KEN supports structured project planning, execution, and scaling by providing technical expertise and strategic support.

- Enables effective impact measurement through robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks, ensuring data-driven decision-making.

- Encourages the standardization of reporting mechanisms to assess project effectiveness, scalability, and long-term sustainability.

<u>Key Takeaways</u>

- The KEN Initiative serves as a vital enabler for numerous projects by providing resources, expertise, and networking opportunities.

- By leveraging KEN's global reach, respondents can enhance collaboration, secure funding, implement innovative solutions, and strengthen policy advocacy efforts.

- The initiative's ability to connect diverse stakeholders across regions and sectors ensures that conservation, sustainability, and development projects achieve lasting impact and scalability.

Key Takeaways from the Responses on KEN Development Section

1. Strong Interest in Policy Advocacy & Knowledge Sharing
  - Many respondents emphasized international policy advocacy (e.g., OHHLEP, Nature4Health, IUCN) and the importance of knowledge sharing on best practices for restoration and conservation.

2. Capacity Building & Community Engagement as Priorities
  - Training workshops, public engagement initiatives, and community-led programs (e.g., afforestation, climate adaptation, gender empowerment) were frequently mentioned as key areas for involvement.

3. Technological and Financial Support Needed
  - Interest in applying AI/ML for restoration, efficient biodiversity monitoring, and securing funding opportunities to support conservation and restoration initiatives was highlighted.

4. Monitoring & Evaluation for Effective Impact Assessment
  - Participants stressed the importance of developing metrics to assess ecological and socio-economic outcomes of restoration efforts, linking research with on-the-ground action.

5. Regional Leadership & Collaborative Approaches
  - Several respondents expressed willingness to take leadership roles in specific regions (e.g., Bangladesh, Colombia) and emphasized multi-stakeholder collaboration to enhance impact.

Section 3: Contributions to the EU Biodiversity knowledge governance

Q24: Role of Projects in Relation to the EU Biodiversity Strategy

Answered: 69

Skipped: 22

Key Themes & Analysis

1. Promoting Sustainable Agriculture & Agroecology
   - Several projects align with the EU Biodiversity Strategy by promoting agroecology, regenerative agriculture, and sustainable land use.
   - Other initiatives focus on integrating permaculture, syntropic forestry, and pollinator-friendly farming to improve biodiversity and soil health.

2. Restoring Degraded Ecosystems & Enhancing Climate Resilience
   - Many projects focus on reforestation, afforestation, and wetland restoration, which directly contribute to the EU goal of restoring 30% of degraded land.
   - Some projects, like Mau Forest restoration, also emphasize carbon sequestration and ecosystem services such as rainfall regulation.
   - Nature-based solutions (NbS) are widely promoted, especially in arid and semi-arid landscapes and urban environments.

3. Strengthening Food Security & Sustainable Livelihoods
   - Many projects address the nexus between biodiversity conservation and human well-being, ensuring that conservation efforts also support food security and local economies.
   - This includes supporting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) through agroforestry, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), and participatory land tenure.
   - Community-led conservation efforts emphasize both ecological and economic sustainability.

4. Urban Biodiversity & Green Infrastructure
   - Some projects, like EcoTashira, focus on restoring biodiversity in urban areas through green roofs, vertical gardens, and habitat creation for pollinators and wildlife.
   - These initiatives align with the EU's focus on urban resilience, air pollution reduction, and ecosystem connectivity.

5. Conservation & Ecosystem Protection
   - Multiple projects work on protected areas, wildlife reserves, and ecosystem monitoring, aligning with EU targets under the Natura 2000 network.
   - Conservation efforts span tropical rainforests, peatlands, mangroves, and marine ecosystems, all vital for biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

6. Integrating One Health & Zoonotic Disease Surveillance
    - Several projects highlight the interconnection between biodiversity, zoonotic disease prevention, and public health, reinforcing the EU's One Health approach.
    - Research on mammal biodiversity and zoonotic spillover risks.

7. Knowledge Production, Research, & Policy Influence
    - Many projects contribute to biodiversity research, monitoring, and policy recommendations.
    - Some initiatives, such as SUPERB, focus on bridging scientific research with policymaking.
    - Other projects generate empirical data on biodiversity impacts, ecosystem services, and climate resilience strategies.

8. International Collaboration & EU-Africa Cooperation
    - Some projects explicitly link EU biodiversity priorities with global conservation efforts, particularly in Africa and Latin America.
    - These projects support: Knowledge exchange on biodiversity management and EU-Africa cooperation on zoonotic disease research and ecosystem conservation.
    - Implementation of best practices for tropical forests, peatlands, and sustainable agriculture.

9. Community Engagement & Governance
    - A strong theme across projects is empowering local communities through governance reforms, participatory mapping, and environmental education.
    - Some projects facilitate legal recognition of IPLC land rights, supporting EU efforts to strengthen biodiversity governance.

10. Carbon Sequestration & Climate Change Mitigation
    - Many projects directly contribute to climate adaptation and carbon sequestration, supporting the EU's commitments under the Green Deal and UN Climate Agreements.
    - Some projects focus on:
        - Forest restoration for carbon capture.
        - Scaling up nature-based solutions for climate resilience.
        - Promoting renewable energy to reduce the carbon footprint of conservation initiatives.

<u>Key Takeaways</u>

These responses demonstrate the broad alignment of biodiversity projects with the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030. The projects actively contribute to:

- Ecosystem restoration (forests, wetlands, urban biodiversity)
- Climate resilience & adaptation
- Sustainable agriculture & food security
- Indigenous & local community empowerment

- One Health & zoonotic disease research
- Scientific research & policy impact

Q25: Role of Projects in Relation to the EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR)
Answered: 64
Skipped: 27

Key Themes from Responses

1. Advancing Ecosystem Restoration
   - Many projects contribute directly to restoring degraded ecosystems, aligning with the NRR's goal of restoring 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030.
   - Restoration initiatives span various ecosystems, including tropical rainforests, peatlands, coral reefs, mangroves, drylands, and urban environments.
   - Several projects focus on reforestation, afforestation, and community-driven afforestation efforts to enhance biodiversity.

2. Climate Resilience and Sustainable Land Use
   - Many projects integrate nature-based solutions to improve climate resilience, prevent land degradation, and promote sustainable land management.
   - Some focus on circular economy approaches, eco-friendly construction, and agricultural waste recycling to drive green transitions.
   - Water conservation, soil restoration, and land productivity enhancements are common priorities.

3. Community Engagement and Indigenous Knowledge
   - A strong emphasis on participatory restoration, with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) playing key roles in sustainable land management.
   - Governance, policy integration, and stakeholder engagement are crucial to ensuring long-term restoration success.

4. Cross-Regional and Global Impact
   - While many projects operate outside the EU, their methodologies, findings, and best practices can inform and support NRR implementation.
   - International partnerships, particularly with Africa, South America, and Asia, contribute to knowledge exchange and policy alignment.
   - Data and insights from restoration projects (e.g., on biodiversity conservation, zoonotic risks, and ecosystem resilience) provide valuable evidence for EU policymakers.
   - 5. Monitoring, Reporting, and Scientific Contributions
   - Projects contribute data on ecosystem health, biodiversity trends, and land-use changes, supporting NRR reporting and implementation.

- Surveillance efforts focus on species conservation, pollinator communities, zoonotic risks, and disease transmission dynamics.
- Scientific research and technological innovations (e.g., GIS, spatial data, and monitoring frameworks) are key enablers of effective restoration.

These themes highlight how diverse projects, even outside the EU, play a critical role in advancing the goals of the Nature Restoration Regulation through knowledge-sharing, policy alignment, and hands-on restoration efforts.

Q26: Collaboration with Key European Biodiversity Entities

Answered: 89
Skipped: 2

Key Findings

- A majority (52, 50.5%) of respondents indicated collaboration with entities other than the listed EU biodiversity networks and initiatives.
- Among the predefined entities, the most frequently cited collaborations were with:
- European Biodiversity Partnership (Biodiversa+) (13.6%, 14 respondents)
- European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet) (10.68%, 11 respondents)
- The EU Biodiversity Platform (EUBP) (6.8%, 7 respondents)
- Lesser engagement was reported with:
- Eklipse (5.83%, 6 respondents)
- Alternet (4.85%, 5 respondents)
- Bioagora (4.85%, 5 respondents)
- Joint Research Centre (JRC) (%, 3 respondents each).

Analysis and Key Insights

1. Low Engagement with Formal EU Science-Policy Platforms
   - The relatively low response rates for Eionet, JRC, and EUBP suggest that many biodiversity researchers or practitioners are not directly engaging with these key EU platforms.
   - This could indicate a gap in awareness, accessibility, or relevance of these initiatives to the respondents' work.

2. Other Collaborations
   - The high percentage of "None" responses (30.1%) in “Others” suggests that currently most projects do not connect with EU Science-policy Platforms.
   - The rest prefer to engage more with non-listed networks, possibly at local, national, or sector-specific levels.

3. Limited Reach of Science-Policy Interfaces
   - The low engagement with Eklipse (5.83%) and Bioagora (4.85%) suggests insufficient participation in structured science-policy mechanisms, despite their role in connecting research with EU decision-making.

- Barrier factors could include lack of visibility, bureaucratic complexity, or limited incentives for researchers to engage.

4. Biodiversa+ as a Key Collaborative Entity
   - Biodiversa+ (13.6%) has the highest engagement among the listed initiatives, suggesting its strong role in funding and facilitating European biodiversity research.
   - This may reflect its active involvement in funding biodiversity projects and fostering researcher networks.

Q27: BioAgora Awareness

Answered: 83
Skipped: 8

Key Findings
- Most respondents, 42.86% (39) were unaware of BioAgora.

Q28: Willingness to Receive BioAgora Newsletter

Answered: 82
Skipped: 9

Key Findings
- Most respondents, 80.22% (73) were interested in the BioAgora Newsletter.

Q29: Gaps in the Science-Policy Landscape and Solutions for Enhancing EU Biodiversity Policy Implementation

Answered: 58
Skipped: 33

<u>Key gaps from Responses</u>

1. Knowledge-Policy Disconnect
   - Scientific research often fails to inform policy decisions due to bureaucratic hurdles and poor communication.
   - There is no systematic mechanism ensuring that research findings are translated into actionable policy recommendations.

2. Slow Policy Uptake of Emerging Science
   - The lag between scientific discoveries and their policy implementation results in outdated regulations.
   - Emerging biodiversity and ecosystem science struggle to gain traction in decision-making.

3. Lack of Cross-Sectoral Integration

- Biodiversity considerations remain isolated within environmental policies rather than integrated across agriculture, infrastructure, and economic planning.
- Sectoral silos within the European Commission limit coordinated action on biodiversity issues.

4. Inadequate Funding & Implementation Mechanisms
   - Short-term research funding is often not mirrored in long-term policy commitments, limiting the sustainability of biodiversity initiatives.
   - A lack of clear budget allocations hinders effective enforcement of biodiversity policies.

5. Limited Stakeholder Engagement & Local Knowledge Integration
   - Indigenous and community-based conservation knowledge is often overlooked in policy formulation.
   - Local stakeholders and NGOs are insufficiently engaged in shaping and implementing biodiversity strategies.

6. Fragmented Monitoring & Data Accessibility
   - Lack of standardized data collection methods hinders the synthesis of biodiversity findings.
   - Policymakers struggle to access or interpret complex scientific data, leading to poor policy design and enforcement.

<u>Solutions bridging gaps extracted from responses</u>

1. Establish Dedicated Science-Policy Interfaces (SPIs)

   - Expand initiatives like the European Environment Agency (EEA)'s networks or the Science Advice Mechanism (SAM) to enhance direct communication between researchers and policymakers.
   - Institutionalize advisory bodies made up of EU-funded researchers to provide evidence-based recommendations.

2. Improve Policy Uptake of Research Through Open Access & Clear Communication
   - Encourage the production of policy briefs, infographics, and interactive tools to translate complex scientific findings into actionable insights.
   - Fund intermediaries or knowledge brokers who can bridge the gap between research and policy.

3. Integrate Biodiversity Science into Sectoral Policies
   - Ensure biodiversity considerations are embedded in agriculture, infrastructure, trade, and finance policies.
   - Develop co-design and co-implementation mechanisms where policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders collaborate from project inception.

4. Strengthen Funding for Science-Based Implementation
    - Tie EU funding for biodiversity projects to specific policy objectives under frameworks like BDS2030 and NRR.
    - Ensure sustained financial commitments to biodiversity restoration efforts beyond short-term research grants.

5. Promote Stakeholder Engagement & Local Knowledge Integration
    - Strengthen collaborations with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), grassroots organizations, and local practitioners.
    - Foster transdisciplinary research that integrates Indigenous and citizen science with formal scientific methods.

6. Enhance Monitoring and Data Sharing Mechanisms
    - Establish centralized, user-friendly databases providing real-time biodiversity data accessible to policymakers.
    - Develop feedback loops where policymakers can communicate challenges and data needs to researchers, ensuring adaptive management.

7. Facilitate Science-Policy Training for Researchers and Policymakers
    - Provide training programs for policymakers to better understand and utilize scientific evidence in decision-making.
    - Encourage interdisciplinary collaboration by funding projects that link biodiversity research with economics, climate science, and social policy.

8. Increase Capacity Building and Networking Opportunities
    - Develop science-policy networks to embed researchers in decision-making processes.
    - Organize policy workshops, forums, and "policy labs" where researchers and policymakers collaborate on biodiversity challenges.

<u>Key Takeaways</u>

- To enhance the implementation of biodiversity commitments, such as BDS2030 and NRR, the EU-funded research community must bridge gaps between science and policy through improved communication, integration, and collaboration.

- Strengthening partnerships, investing in data-driven policies, fostering long-term commitment, and engaging a broad range of stakeholders are essential steps to ensure that biodiversity goals are met and maintained.

- By implementing these solutions, the EU can create a more resilient, science-informed policy framework for biodiversity conservation and restoration.

Q30: Outcome of the survey

Answered: 72

Skipped: 19

Most respondents 72 (79.12%) were interested to follow-up on the outcomes of the survey.

Key Takeaways from Contributions to EU Biodiversity Knowledge Governance

1. Bridging Science-Policy Gaps
   - Strengthening the interface between scientific research and policy implementation is essential for improving evidence-informed decision-making in EU biodiversity governance.
2. Enhancing Policy Coherence
   - Greater alignment across EU biodiversity policies, including restoration, conservation, and climate strategies, is necessary to reduce fragmentation and improve ecological outcomes.
3. Improving Data Accessibility & Integration
   - Open and interoperable biodiversity monitoring systems can enhance transparency and support adaptive management by ensuring policymakers have timely, high-quality data.
4. Fostering Stakeholder Engagement
   - Inclusive governance, involving scientists, policymakers, local communities, and industry, can enhance policy uptake and ensure biodiversity strategies are effective and equitable.
5. Funding Gaps and Short-Term Project Cycles
   - There is a mismatch between short-term research funding and long-term biodiversity policy needs, leading to fragmented efforts.

Zoonoses Emergence across Degraded and Restored Forest Ecosystems

D6.3

Date: 31-12-2024

Lead beneficiary: Pikado

Author/s: Leslie Reperant

Funded by the European Union

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the or European Research Executive Agency (REA) can be held responsible for them

The ZOE project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101135094.

Project acronym	*ZOE*
Project full title	*Zoonoses Emergence across Degraded and Restored Forest Ecosystems*
Project duration	*01.01.2024 – 31.12.2027*
Call:	*HORIZON-CL6-2023-BIODIV-01*
Deliverable number	*D6.3*
Deliverable title	*Joint Deliverable: Integrative Knowledge Platform*
Due date	*31-12-2024*
Nature[1]	*DEC*
Dissemination Level[2]	*PU*
Work Package	*WP6*
Lead Beneficiary	*Pikado*
Contributing Beneficiaries	*All ZOE partners, sister project RESTOREID*
Citation	*Reperant et al. (2025) D6.3 Integrative Knowledge Platform*

[1] **Nature:** R = Report; P = Prototype; D = Demonstrator; O = Other
[2] **Dissemination Level:**
PU = Public;
PP = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services);
RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services);
CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)
Restraint UE = Classified with the classification level "Restraint UE" according to Commission Decision 2001/844 and amendments
Confidential UE = Classified with the mention of the classification level "Confidential UE" according to Commission Decision 2001/844 and amendments
Secret UE = Classified with the mention of the classification level "Secret UE" according to Commis-sion Decision 2001/844 and amendments

Document history

Version	Status	Date	Author(s)
0.1	*Draft*	*19-02-2025*	Leslie Reperant
0.2	*Draft*	*31-05-2025*	Leslie Reperant
1	*Final*	*11-06-2025*	Leslie Reperant

Table of Content

1. Objective of this Deliverable at ZOE

ZOE Integrative Knowledge Platform (first beta version) will be set up as a structured, private and public space in place and live online with input cross-generated by other consortia, and will include Stakeholder Database with all relevant contacts and links in place. The Platform will be regularly updated throughout ZOE. (Task 6.3).

This is a joint deliverable with sister project RESTOREID; it is delivered to the EC as two separate deliverables produced by each project consortium.

2. Methods

Awareness of the links between the ecosystem degradation of the planet, including climate change and the unsustainable overexploitation of natural resources, and the emergence of infectious diseases in humans has dramatically increased over the past decade and ever more so in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Initiatives aimed at tackling these problems have multiplied and call for better integration of the health and ecological sciences, as well as for optimized collaboration to ensure synergies between initiatives and avoid duplication of efforts.

To optimize **coordination and collaboration between all relevant consortia, organizations, initiatives and agencies involved at the biodiversity-health nexus** and to promote **active involvement of local communities, and environmental, animal, and human health stakeholders**, ZOE will implement as a joint deliverable with RESTOREID, an **Integrative Knowledge Platform** to

- **i)** share data, sampling site locations, protocols and methodologies;
- **ii)** disseminate and share findings over LULC and other environmental changes, plant biodiversity, animal biodiversity, microbiological biodiversity, and the emergence of zoonotic and vector-borne diseases;
- **iii)** issue recommendations and propose practical policy strategies, involving local communities and stakeholders through co-creative activities, co-design, and co-assessment;
- **iv)** improve monitoring schemes and support the development of robust early warning systems in a One Health context.

ZOE Integrative Knowledge Platform will work as an online resource effectively linking all relevant stakeholders and proposing diverse communication channels for effective,

far-reaching, and impactful dissemination of knowledge (Fig. 1). It will also aim at providing a structure for the coordination of research activities aiming at understanding and mitigating the risks of zoonotic disease emergence in relation to ecosystem degradation and associated biodiversity loss.

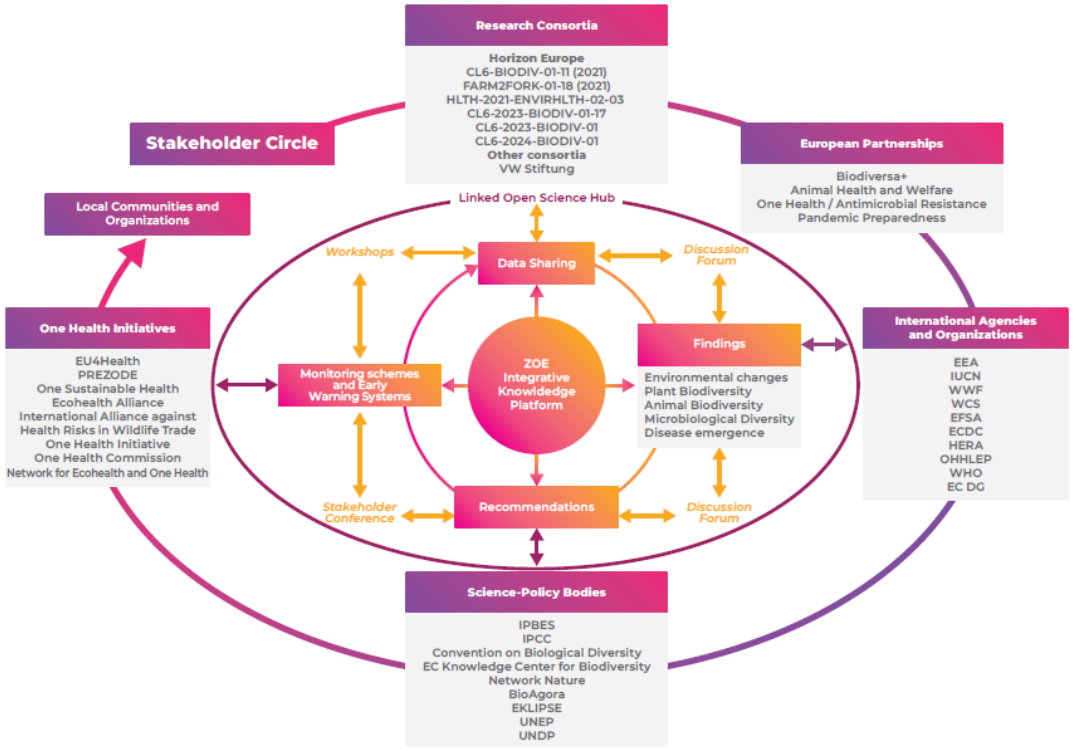


Figure 1. ZOE Integrative Knowledge Platform

Data sharing to build synergies: The data sharing section of the platform will open to an **interactive map locating the case study regions and partner institutions of funded consortia** addressing research questions at the biodiversity-health nexus.

We will work to enhance data comparability within the network, ensuring interoperability, and assessing how best to liaise with other platforms (such as PREZODE, EKLIPSE, BioAgora, Network Nature), to avoid duplication of efforts. Relevant consortia will include those funded under Horizon Europe calls CL6-BIODIV-01-11, FARM2FORK-01-18, HLTH-2021-ENVIRHLTH-02-03 and current CL6-2023/2024-BIODIV-01.

We will further leverage the extensive network of the ZOE consortium and on-board consortia as well as dedicated search to **identify other projects of relevance funded by EU or national funding agencies**. Their coordinators will be contacted to inquire their willingness and interest in joining the platform.

The participating consortia will be invited to provide information on their sampling sites, partner institutions, contact information and links to their project's website. In accordance with the data management plans and IP strategies of the joining consortia (which will be invited to check and clarify any restriction, e.g., due to IP, ethical or GDPR issues), they will be invited to create a **linked Open Science space** (e.g., the Open Science Framework of the nonprofit Center for Open Science; see below) to (pre-)register their projects, populate their space with **accessible and transparent information on study design and objectives**, and share **raw/curated data, protocols, and methodologies.** One advantage of the OSF platform is the built-in option to link to institutions' own data repositories. Project preregistration and data sharing will ensure the highest level of synergy between participating consortia.

We will further strive at sustaining active interactions through **ad-hoc physical or virtual meetings between project coordinators or workgroups (including e.g., during project consortium meetings, with the participation of "ambassadors" from other projects)** to harmonize methodologies and coordinate research activities towards closing current gaps and breaking down existing silos.

Dissemination of findings: Research findings and results generated by the participating consortia will be shared in multiple formats, including **accessible factsheets, brochures, press releases, peer-reviewed open-access publications, recorded presentations, webinars and podcasts.** ZOE will provide templates (e.g., for 2-pager leaflet, 4-pager brochure, fact-sheet design, infographics), while the participating consortia will be invited to deliver materials or links. The findings will be categorized according to their relevance for environmental changes; plant, animal, or microbiological biodiversity; and disease emergence. They will be tagged by geography, ecosystem type, and other key categories to facilitate a targeted search-based approach, so that stakeholders within and across sectors have user-friendly access to all relevant findings in one click.

Secured discussion forums will support exchanges between and among research consortium partners and stakeholders, including European Partnerships (e.g., for Pandemic Preparedness, One Health / Antimicrobial Resistance, Animal Health and Welfare, Biodiversa+) and national and international agencies and organizations. Researchers and stakeholders will have the possibility to initiate and moderate the discussions, provide final consensus or conclusions upon topic closure, and records will be stored and tagged for future reference. Among the objectives of these interactions will be the development and strengthening of the European Research Area (ERA); overcoming of the fragmentation of the R&I landscape; avoiding duplication of national or regional research activities; and promoting of European competitiveness and innovation.

Importantly, these interactions will leverage the activities of existing partnerships and initiatives with similar aims.

Recommendations towards policy makers: The participating consortia will be invited to issue recommendations and practical policy strategies, in close cooperation with European Partnerships, national and international agencies and organizations, and science-policy bodies (including IPBES, IPCC, Convention on Biological Diversity, EC Knowledge Center for Biodiversity, UN Environment and Development Programs). These recommendations will appear in **dedicated reports** (adapted to their targeted audiences) **and open-access publications. Secured discussion forums** will facilitate exchange, as described above. **Ad-hoc virtual or physical meetings** may be organized as deemed necessary by relevant stakeholders.

Among the objectives of these interactions will be the implementation of mechanisms to link R&I to policy needs; develop close synergies with national and regional programmes; bring together a broad range of innovation actors to work towards a common goal; and turn research results into socio-economic impacts. They will support policy-science bodies such as the **WHO Health Emergencies Programme** that has already agreed to continuous exchange with ZOE to make assessments of specific thematic or methodological issues at the biodiversity-health nexus; identify policy-relevant tools, facilitate their use, and catalyse their further development; and identify and meet the priority capacity, knowledge and data needs of Member States, experts, and stakeholders. The research consortia will support existing or future working groups and task forces to synthesize the best available knowledge, facilitate evidence-based decisions and create a European network of recognised experts and knowledge holders. Overall, these activities will contribute to designing, monitoring, reviewing and rectifying existing policy and programmatic measures or shape and support the implementation of new policy initiatives and decisions.

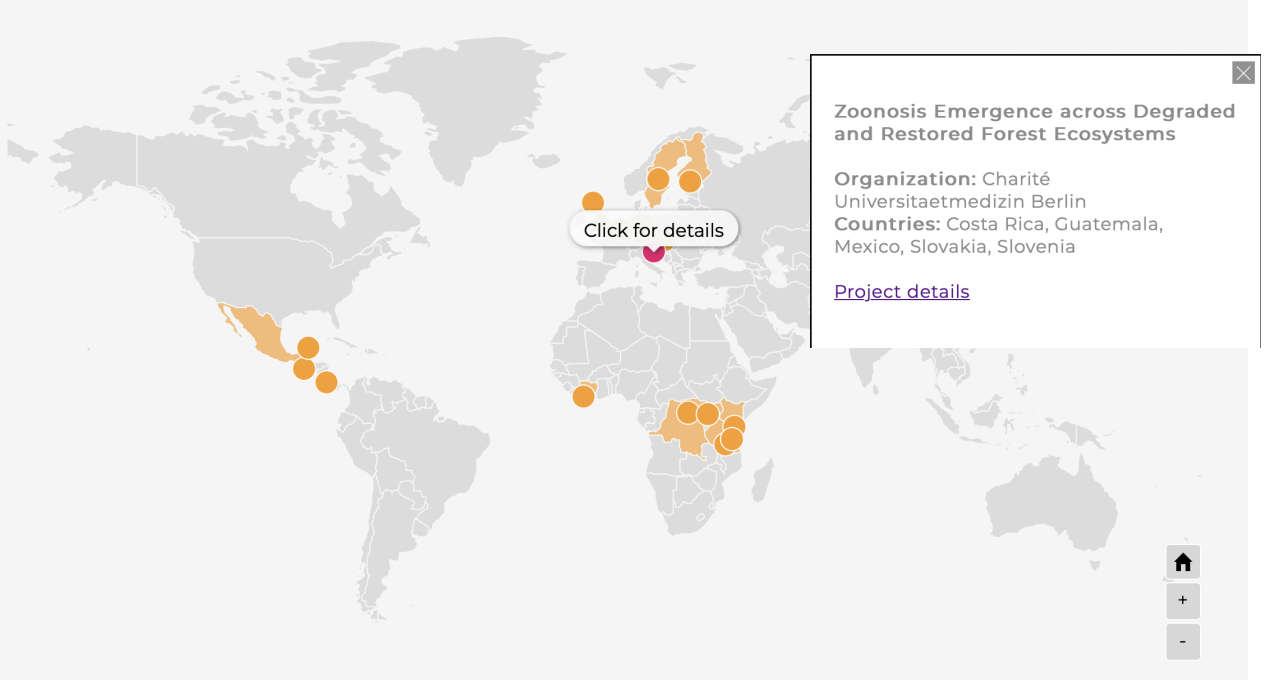
Monitoring Schemes and Early Warning Systems: Together, the participating consortia and stakeholders will refine **models for monitoring schemes and early warning systems, through audience-tailored thematic reports and open-access publications, and a link to RESTOREID's digital decision support tool (combining scenario analyses and risk assessment layers).**

3. Results

In this Deliverable D6.3, the initial (beta) version of the online platform is provided at www.biodiv-health-kep.com (DEC, PU). The online platform is displayed as a link on the ZOE and RESTOREID websites.

The online beta version of the platform opens on an **interactive map** displaying the locations of field work of projects aiming to assess the links between biodiversity and disease emergence. The landing site's name has been changed to Knowledge Exchange Platform as a consensus with sister project RESTOREID.

Clicking on any field work location dot reveals a pop-up with the corresponding project details and a link to a dedicated project webpage listing major information on the project. Projects can be filtered via customized options on the nature and targets of the work carried out. Here we demonstrate some of the functionalities of the platform using data from both ZOE and RESTOREID.

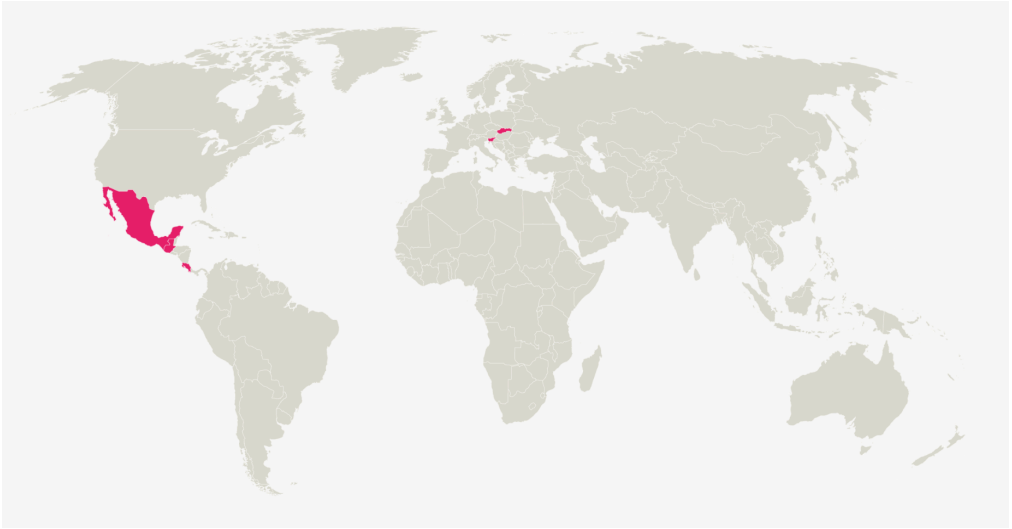


The **locations of ZOE field work sites** are in Costa Rica (Canton de Mora, San Jose Province), Guatemala (Tikal National Park, Petén Department), Mexico (Puuc Biocultural Reserve, Yucatán State), Slovakia (Bratislava Region), and Slovenia (Prestanek, Municipality of Postojna).

The **locations of RESTOREID field work sites** are in Sweden (Gävleborg), Finland (Lammi Biological Station), Germany, Central Scotland, Belgium (Flanders), Ivory Coast (Taï National Park and surroundings), Democratic Republic of Congo (Yangambi Biosphere Reserve), Uganda (Kibale National Park), Kenya (Taita Research Station and surroundings, and Tanzania (Lulanda and Bunduki).

The countries highlighted in orange have active field work locations (dominant colour). Countries highlighted in green will indicate the presence of field work locations of ended projects.

From the **pop-up insert** associated with each location, the visitor can reach the corresponding **project page**. This page displays information on the project, including coordinating and funding information, links to project's website and OSF account, a map displaying the countries where field work occurs, the list of partner institutions in the consortium, including links to their respective website, the list of sampling locations, and the fields of action corresponding to the filters selected for each project.



Changes in biodiversity associated with ecosystem degradation are increasingly recognized as an important driver for the emergence and spread of infectious diseases in wildlife, domestic animals, and humans. Anthropogenic activities often lead to land use and land cover changes from natural, biodiverse habitats to homogenized and biotically depleted landscapes. These landscapes are characterized by impoverished wild species communities that demonstrate resilience to anthropogenic pressures and tend to favour generalist, synanthropic and commensal hosts and vectors of zoonotic diseases.

The ZOE consortium aims at advancing the understanding of the effects of ecosystem degradation in the form of deforestation and associated biodiversity loss on the risk of emergence of zoonotic and vector-borne diseases, and at better defining the protective value of forest ecosystem restoration. It fully embraces a holistic, integrated, inter- and transdisciplinary One Health approach to the links between human, animal, and environmental health.

List of Partner Institutions:

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Universitaet Hannover	Germany	www.uni-hannover.de
Biomedicinske Centrum Slovenskej Akademie Vied, Verejna Vyskumna Institucia	Slovakia	www.uni-hannover.de
Fraunhofer Gesellschaft zur Forderung der Angewandten Forschung Ev	Germany	www.fraunhofer.de
Universidad del Valle de Guatemala	Guatemala	www.uvg.edu.gt
Universitat Wien	Austria	www.univie.ac.at
Univerza v Ljubljani	Slovenia	www.uni-lj.si
Universitaet Potsdam	Germany	www.uni-potsdam.de
Pikado B.V	Netherlands	www.pikadobv.com
Universidad de Costa Rica	Costa Rica	www.ucr.ac.cr
Universidade da Coruna	Spain	www.udc.es
Universite d'aix Marseille	France	www.univ-amu.fr
Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico	Mexico	www.unam.mx
Centro de Investigacion y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politecnico Naciona	Mexico	www.cinvestav.mx
Wildlife Conservation Society	USA	www.wcs.org

List of Sampling Locations:

Costa Rica	Canton de Mora, San Jose Province
Guatemala	Guatemala, Tikal National Park, Petén Department
Mexico	Puuc Biocultural Reserve, Yucatán State
Slovakia	Bratislava Region
Slovenia	Prestanek, Municipality of Postojna

Field of action:

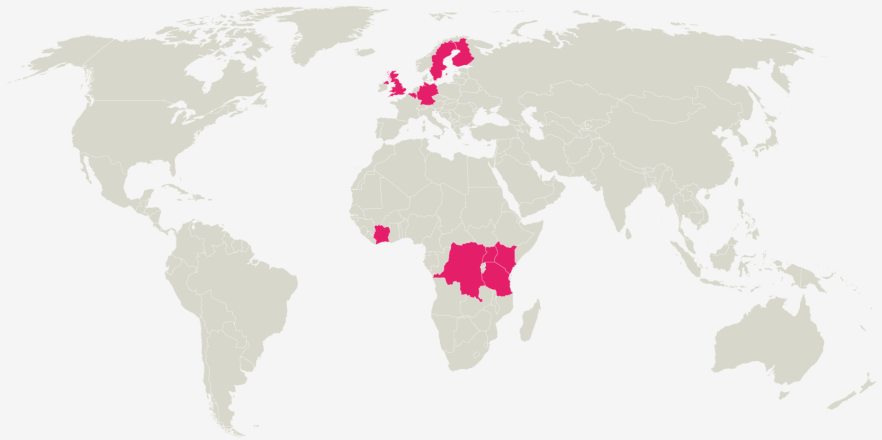
Animal (Invertebrates [Arthropods: Insects, Arachnids], Vertebrates [Rodents]), **Plants** (Canopy, Understory, Grass), Microbes/Parasites (Viral, Bacterial, Unicellular eukaryotes), **Environments** (Tropical rainforest, Tropical dry forest, Temperate forest), **Environmental changes** (Deforestation, Urbanization, Agriculture, Ranching, Reforestation, Restoration), **Disease metrics** (Seroprevalence [animal], Seroprevalence [human], Prevalence [animal], Genomics)

Restoring Ecosystems to Stop the Threat Of (Re-) Emerging Infectious Diseases (RESTOREID)

RESTOREID

Period of Funding: 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027

Link to Project Website	https://restoreid.eu/
Project Number	101134969
Funding Agency	European Research Executive Agency REA
Lead Organization Name	Universiteit Antwerpen
Lead Organization Country	Belgium
Link to Lead Organization Website	https://www.uantwerpen.be/nl/
Link to Open Science Framework (OSF) public page	https://osf.io/er57g/?view_only=9b09470d6c85432cb7484b9ba1c486e9



List of Partner Institutions:

Institut de Recherche pour le Developpement	France	http://www.ird.fr/
Avia-Gis Nv	Belgium	http://www.avia-gis.com/
Europa Media Szolgaltato Non Profitkozhasznu Kft	Hungary	https://www.europamedia.org/
Europa Media Norge AS	Norway	https://norge.europamedia.org/
Helsingin Yliopisto	Finland	http://www.helsinki.fi/university/
Helmholtz-Zentrum fur Infektionsforschung Gmbh	Germany	http://www.helmholtz-hzi.de/
Universidade Nova de Lisboa	Portugal	www.unl.pt
Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet	Sweden	http://www.slu.se/
Sokoine University of Agriculture	Tanzania	http://www.suanet.ac.tz/
Universite de Kisangani	Democratic Republic of the Congo	https://ulikis.net/
Instituut Voor Tropische Geneeskunde	Belgium	http://www.itg.be/
Alternet the European Science Policy Interface on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	Belgium	https://alterneteurope.eu/
Medecins du Monde – Dokters Van De Wereld	Belgium	https://medecinsdumonde.be/regions/belgique
The University of Stirling	United Kingdom	http://www.stir.ac.uk/
University of Glasgow	United Kingdom	http://www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/iii/staff/iainmcinnes/
Bangor University	United Kingdom	https://www.bangor.ac.uk/

List of Sampling Locations:

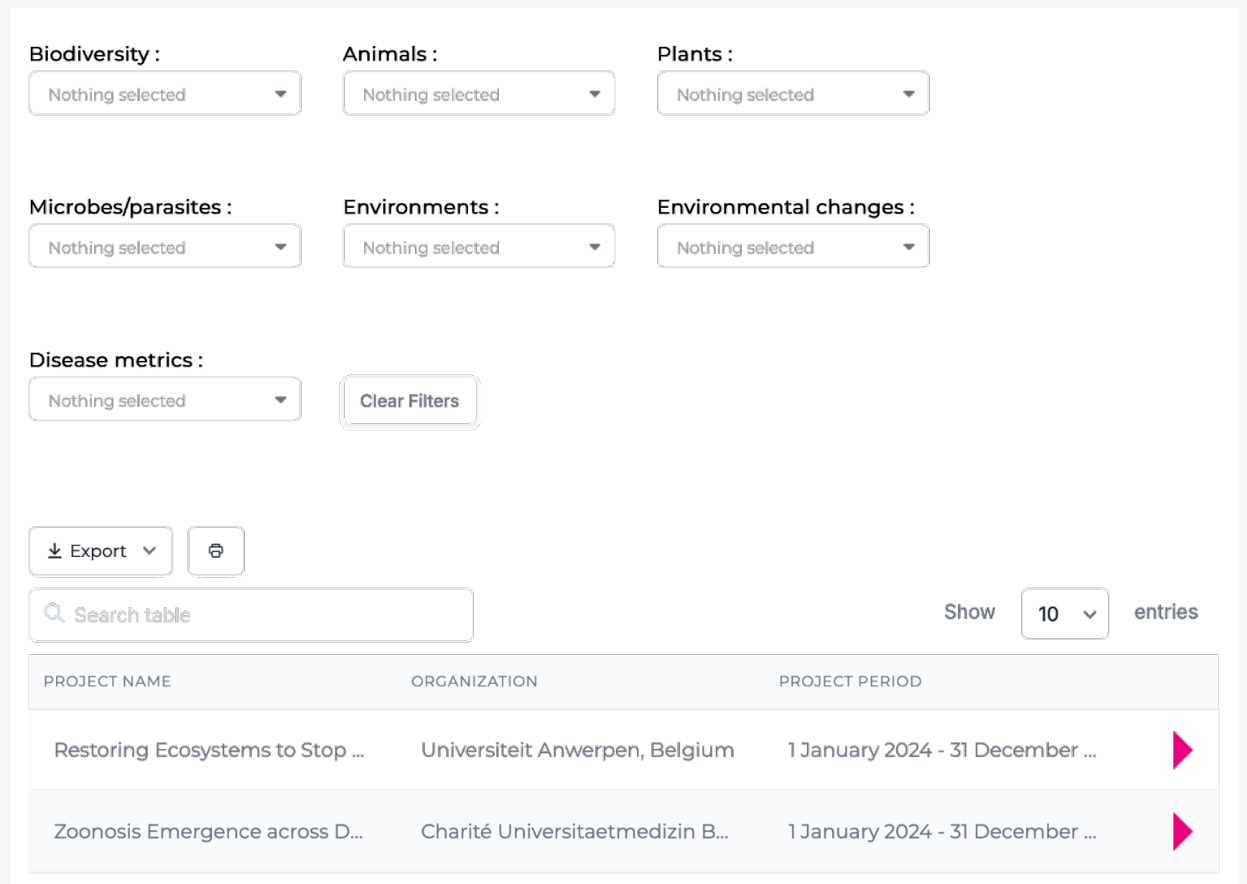
Sweden	Gävleborg
Finland	Lammi Biological Station
Germany	TBD
Scotland	Central Scotland
Belgium	Flanders
Ivory Coast	Taï National Park and surrounding
Democratic Republic of Congo	Yangambi Biosphere Reserve
Uganda	Kibale National Park
Kenya	Taita Research Station and surrounding
Tanzania	Lulanda and Bunduki

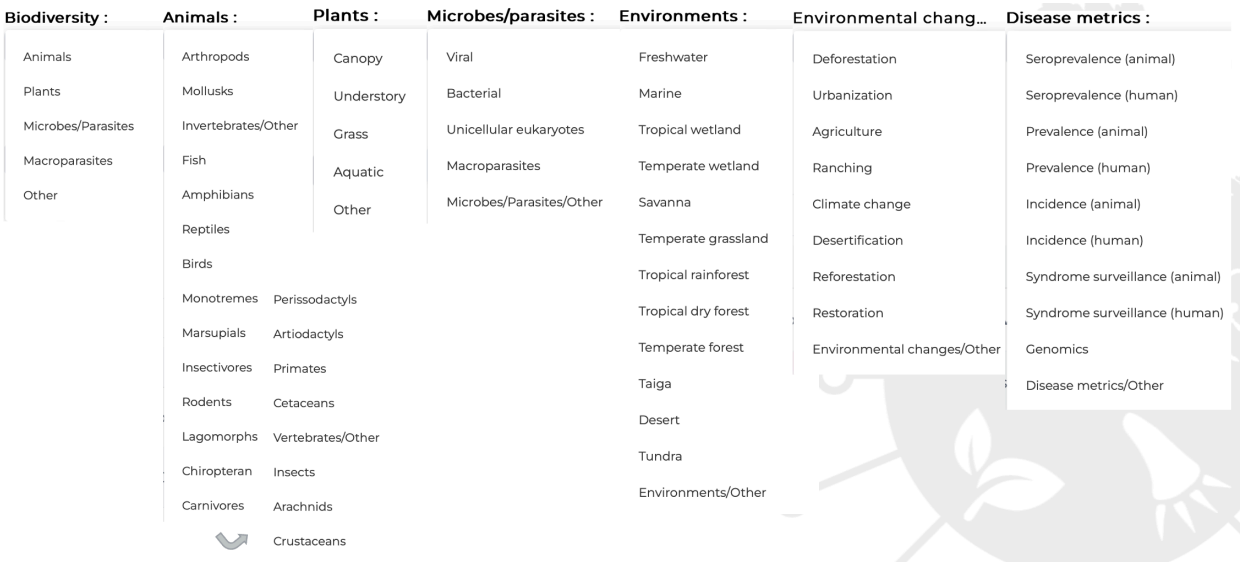
Field of action:

Animal (Vertebrates [Birds, Insectivores, Rodents, Lagomorphs, Chiroptera, Carnivores, Perissodactyls, Artiodactyls, Primates]), **Microbes/Parasites** (Viral, Bacterial, Macroparasites), **Environments** (Tropical wetland, Temperate wetland, Tropical rainforest, Tropical dry forest, Temperate forest), **Environmental changes** (Deforestation, Agriculture, Restoration), **Disease metrics** (Seroprevalence [animal], Prevalence [animal], Incidence [animal], Genomics)

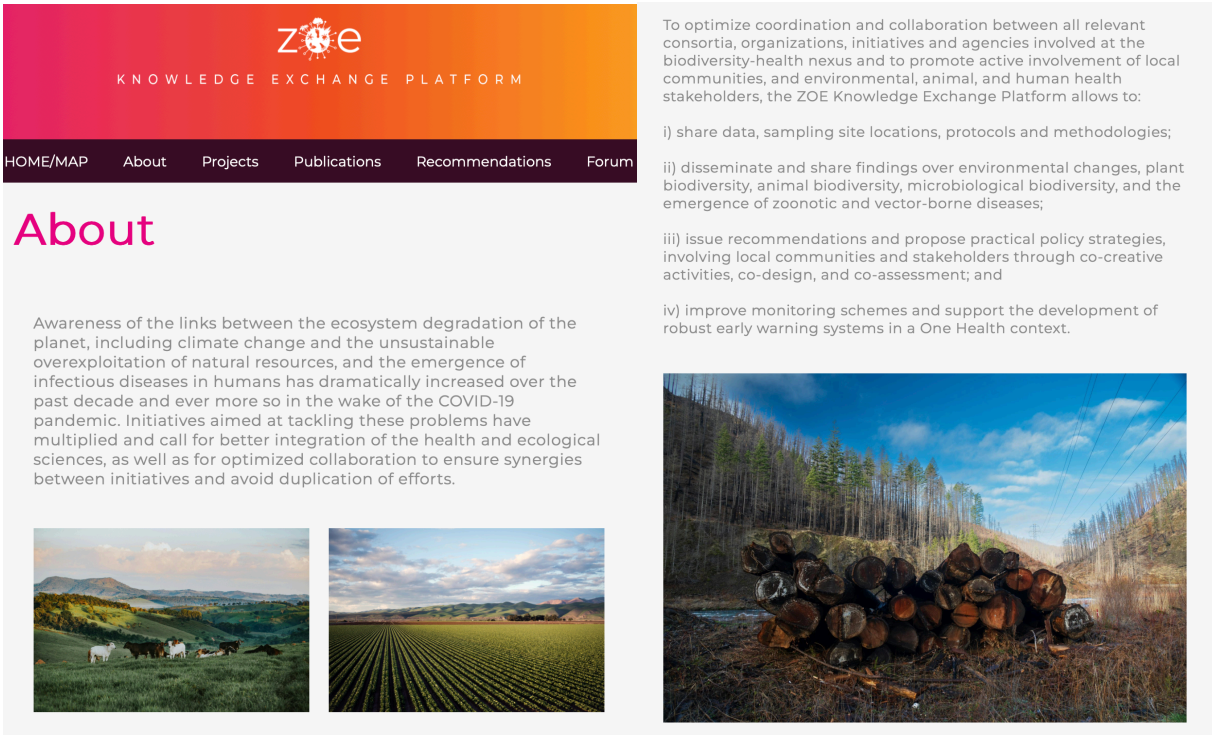
According to the World Health Organization, spillover of pathogens from animals to humans (zoonotic spillover) is the predominant cause of emerging infectious diseases and the primary cause of recent pandemics. A growing number of studies has linked zoonotic spillover risk to human-induced landscape degradation. Therefore, a logical solution could be restoration. However, it is not clear by what mechanisms restoration could protect against spillover, the spatiotemporal scales necessary, the type of restoration needed, or the potential effects on how humans interact with the environment and if that could increase zoonotic spillover risk. The EU-funded RESTOREID project will investigate how restoration could impact wildlife disease and emergent spillover risk.

Filters allow to find projects based on the types of biodiversity assessed, types of animals, plants, microbes/parasites and environments sampled, types of environmental changes investigated and disease metrics.





The menu of the website also displays About, Publications, Recommendations and Forum pages.



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PLATFORM

HOME/MAP About Projects Publications Recommendations Forum

Publications

Find here the publications produced by each project consortium, as listed by Google Scholar and Pubmed.

PROJECT NAME	ORGANIZATION	PROJECT PERIOD		
Restoring Ecosystems to Stop the Threat Of (Re-)Emerging Infectious Diseases (RESTOREID)	Universiteit Anwerpen, Belgium	1 January 2024 – 31 December 2027	READ	READ
Zoonosis Emergence across Degraded and Restored Forest Ecosystems (ZOE)	Charité Universitaetmedizin Berlin, Germany	1 January 2024 – 31 December 2027	READ	READ

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PLATFORM

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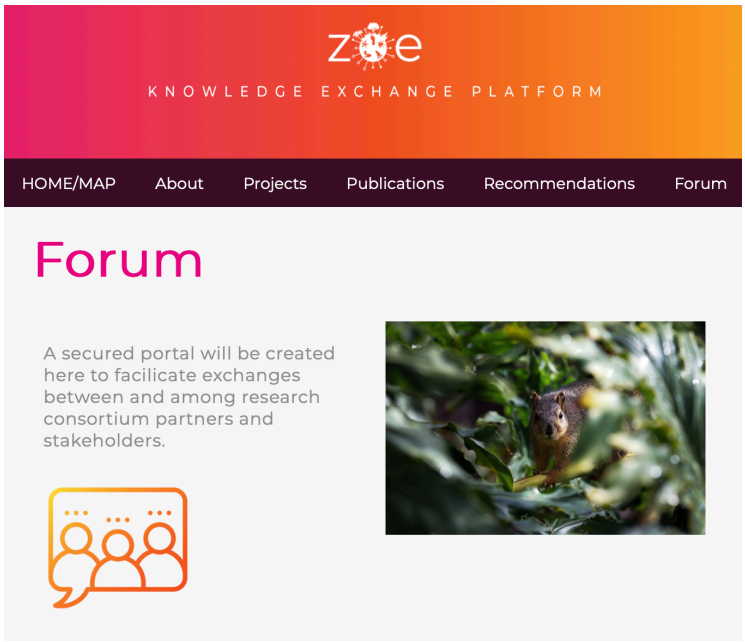
Recommendations

The consortia participating in ZOE Knowledge Exchange Platform will be invited to issue recommendations and practical policy strategies, in close cooperation with European Partnerships, national and international agencies and organizations, and science-policy bodies.

Stay tuned!



4. Joint Stakeholder Database

A common Stakeholder Database was developed by ZOE and RESTOREID. It includes ZOE and RESTOREID advisory boards members, as well as NGOs, private organizations, European partnerships, European and International Agencies and Initiatives, Science Policy bodies, Platforms, EU funded projects, Biodiversa projects, other projects and related initiatives, universities and other public institutions, interested and/or involved at the biodiversity-health nexus. It is available on request.

5. Other joint actions with RESTOREID

As part of this joint deliverable, the ZOE consortium assisted RESTOREID with the distribution of their stakeholder consultation survey (Needs and Wants from Stakeholders in Biodiversity, Restoration, and Zoonotic Disease Prevention). In particular, the invitation to participate was distributed through our social network channels and through the newsletter of the global One Health Community (https://mailchi.mp/onehealthplatform/seasons-greetings-8th-world-one-health-congress-highlights-20267410?e=e178083373). We also contributed to RESTOREID's newsletter on the survey's early insights, and distributed it through our social network channels.

6. Next steps

Addressing the results of RESTOREID's stakeholder consultation survey

We will work with RESTOREID to translate the results of the stakeholder consultation survey into adapted responses to assessed needs that can be implemented onto the online platform.

Data sharing to build synergies:

We will invite other projects working at the biodiversity-health nexus as funded by EU Horizon Europe and other national and international funding agencies to be placed on the map. We will contact their coordinators and invite them to join the Knowledge Exchange Platform by sharing information about their projects and establishing their own OSF account.

We have identified the following priority projects: ID-Alert, WaterLANDS, BCOMING, BEPREP, BIONEXT, CLIMOS, NESTLER, REST-COAST, MERLIN, FOSTA-Health, SUPERB, URBANE, and CATALYZE.

Dissemination of findings:

Findings will be disseminated at the respective projects' websites and will be listed on the Knowledge Platform under the Publication page.

Recommendations towards policy makers:

The consortia participating in ZOE Knowledge Exchange Platform will be invited to issue recommendations and practical policy strategies, in close cooperation with European Partnerships, national and international agencies and organizations, and science-policy bodies. The dedicated page Recommendation is established to present these recommendations for policy makers in the form of accessible infographics and reports.

Monitoring Schemes and Early Warning Systems:

A dedicated page on the Knowledge Platform will be established to present the monitoring schemes and early warning systems developed as part of the respective projects. It will also display RESTOREID's digital decision support tool.

Sustainability beyond ZOE and RESTOREID

We will elaborate a sustainability plan to ensure the continued functioning of the online platform beyond the projects' end date. In particular, the online Knowledge Exchange Platform may be integrated into the tools to support BioAgora Restoration and Health Knowledge Exchange Network. The domain and administrative rights may be transferred to BioAgora for continued use of the website.